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THE TIMES 35p

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media times

Raymond Snoddy on the British film chief who is taking on the world

PAGES 40-43

ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

Complete summer fixtures

PAGE 46

TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

CAN FFION SAVE THE TORIES?

SHERYL CROW

Why I can't make love work

PLUS: OUR NEW COMIC m@g@

'Jowell opposes tobacco decision'

MPs attack Blair over Formula One

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR came under renewed pressure over the Formula One affair yesterday as two Commons committees strongly criticised his decision to exempt motor racing from the tobacco sponsorship ban.

The Commons Health and European Legislation Committees rushed out reports seriously questioning the Prime Minister's justification for the special treatment for Formula One.

The reports from the two committees, both heavily Labour dominated, mark the first time that the Government has faced criticism by a select committee.

The Health Select Committee vehemently opposed the Prime Minister's decision to make Formula One a special case and recommended that it should have to find alternative sponsors, like other sports.

In a move which will infuriate Downing Street, David Hinchcliffe, the Labour committee chairman suggested that Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, who has been crossexamined by both committees, did not support the decision taken by Mr Blair to seek a permanent exemption for Formula One, and was overruled. In a one-page report, produced within hours of Ms Jowell's appearance, the committee said: "We are particularly concerned at the Government's proposal to seek an EC directive which contains provision for a permanent exemption for Formula One. We believe that Formula One should be placed under the same pressure as other sports to seek alternative sponsorship."

Mr Hinchcliffe later said that Ms Jowell had campaigned passionately to remove tobacco advertising sponsorship and had argued the case when she was a member of the committee herself. "I believe that she's in a situation she doesn't believe in herself . . . I believe that the decision is something that she wouldn't personally support if she hadn't been landed in this position," Mr Hinchcliffe said. The Committee on European Legislation said exemption for Formula One "deserves closer examination." The report questions the Government's assertion that 50,000 jobs would be lost if Formula One was forced out of Europe. It says it would be nearer 8,000.

"We find that the most difficult question to answer is simply this: why should Formula One be singled out for an exemption?"

Last night the Prime Minister's spokesman said that the aim was to get a European directive on tobacco sponsorship agreed. "The approach, the policy objective has always been the same: to get a ban on tobacco on tobacco advertising and sponsorship," he said. The Government hit trouble on a second front yesterday when it emerged that 120 MPs have written a private letter to Gordon Brown opposing his decision to cut lone parent benefits by up to £11 a week and urging him to rethink. But the Prime Minister's spokesman insisted that there would be no bowing to pressure on the issue. "The Government has got to govern and take decisions that all sorts of people might not like from time to time," he said.

The private letter to Gordon Brown, said to be signed by 120 MPs, argues that the policy should be shelved until the government has had time to assess its welfare to work programme to encourage lone parents in to jobs. MPs privately argue that it should be delayed for six or 12 months. The letter which is believed to be have been signed by some principal private secretaries (who are not allowed to publicly oppose government policy)was sent after Mr Brown's announcement on childcare on Tuesday.

The backbenchers have made clear that the out-of-school childcare package will do little to help lone parents with under school age children or those who do not want to work.

Secret fund for Beckett office

Margaret Beckett is receiving financial assistance from a blind trust set up before the election, despite a pledge by the Labour leadership to publicise all its donors. The President of the Board of Trade is using the confidential source of money to help to run her constituency office, which is managed by her husband .... Page 2

Deception charge in Guinness report

BY GEORGE SIVELL AND PAUL DURMAN

INSPECTORS from the Department of Trade and Industry accuse the main participants in the Guinness affair of "an enterprise of deception" in their report published yesterday, ten years after it was commissioned.

Although further prosecutions are unlikely, the report cast a cloud over City practices. The inspectors accuse those involved of a cynical disregard for laws and regulations, a cavalier misuse of company money and a contempt for truth and common honesty.

But Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said none of the key figures criticised would be disqualified from being company directors. The DTI said Mrs Beckett had received strong legal advice suggesting that she would be unable to sustain an application for disqualification of any of those criticised in the report.

David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt, an accountant, who had to wait for criminal proceedings to end before they could publish their 300-page report, said that, even after ten years, some of their findings would shock the City.

The report paints a vivid picture of how it was possible for the Guinness camp artificially to raise the price of the brewing giant's shares in the closing stages of its bitter battle for Distillers, the Scottish drinks company, in 1986.

City action, page 27
"Win at any price", page 32

"If you think this is slow you should have tried waiting for the report from the DTI"

TV & RADIO	50, 51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26, 52
LETTERS	23, 31
OBITUARIES	25
MATTHEW PARRIS	22
ARTS	38-40
CHESS & BRIDGE	40
COURT & SOCIAL	24
SPORT	46-50, 52
FASHION	19, 20
LAW REPORT	45

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48
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Spencer goes on the attack

Earl Spencer went on the offensive yesterday by revealing the size of the divorce deal he has offered his estranged wife, Victoria, and encouraging his closest friend to defend his reputation.

David Horton-Fawkes dismissed allegations that the earl had had a dozen affairs as "malicious" .... Page 3

Hunting backers gather for vigil

Hunting supporters began a 24-hour vigil outside Westminster as MPs prepared to give a big Commons majority today to a backbench Bill to outlaw fox-hunting. Michael Foster's Bill is highly unlikely to become law. The Government again insisted that it would not provide extra time .... Page 7

Minimum wage deal offered

The Government yesterday offered for the first time in Britain to all employees an entitlement to be paid not less than a legal minimum wage rate. Ministers proclaimed that they were delivering on one of Labour's key election pledges as they launched the legislation .... Page 27

Leading article, page 21

'Sink Britannia' says Princess

The Princess Royal's appeal for *Britannia* to be scuttled and not preserved as a tourist attraction has left the Government — which had decided scrapping the yacht would cause public outrage — in a dilemma. The Princess has said that she fears the yacht would not be maintained properly in private hands .... Page 10

DAVID GRAY/REUTERS

Paula Yates with her daughter Heavenly Hiraani arriving at the cathedral yesterday

Tears and rock music at Hutchence funeral

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A DISTRAUGHT Paula Yates said goodbye to her partner, Michael Hutchence, at a moving and sombre but colourful funeral in Sydney yesterday.

Friends had to support Ms Yates as she entered St Andrew's Cathedral for the hour-long service for her rock star lover, who was found hanged aged 37 in his hotel suite at the weekend.

Ms Yates cradled their 16-month-old daughter, Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, as she sat in the front pew. Occasionally the service became too much for her and she had to be comforted. She did not wear the wedding dress bought for her planned marriage to Hutchence — which she had said she would dye black for the funeral. Instead she wore a sleeveless, knee-length, white-floral-patterned black dress.

Thousands of fans stood outside the cathedral as the singer's coffin, adorned with a single yellow tiger lily and 500 blue irises, arrived.

About 1,200 mourners had seats in the cathedral, among them 200 invited guests, members of Mr Hutchence's family, friends and his band, INXS.

The mourners included Tom Jones, the singer, Kylie Minogue, the former soap star turned singer, who had an affair with Mr Hutchence several years ago, and one of his more recent girlfriends, Helena Christiansen, the model.

At one stage a man jumped up from his seat on the balcony and shouted expletives. "He was going to do a swan dive," said a police officer who managed to restrain the man.

The eulogies included one from Andrew Farriss, a fellow INXS member, who urged fans not to copy Mr Hutchence's death. Australia has one of the worst youth suicide rates in the world.

Hutchence: thousands of fans paid tribute

"We ask the band's fans and those who are touched by his death not to react in any way that would hurt themselves," he said. "Michael would not have wanted that."

In an emotional tribute, Rhett Hutchence said he had visited the hotel room where his brother had died. "I spent some time in his room the other night to see if it had any answers," he said. "It seemed a sad room — it definitely wasn't Michael."

Following the hymn *The Lord's My Shepherd*, the Dean of Sydney told the congregation: "We must thank God for the person whose life we shared and who made memories possible."

The service closed with the coffin being carried out by the surviving members of INXS and Rhett, as the band's song, *Never Tear Us Apart*, resounded through the cathedral. Still clutching her daughter, Ms Yates followed as the family departed for a private cremation ceremony. Minutes later, the last person to see Mr Hutchence alive, the actress Kym Wilson, followed. She spent four hours in the singer's Ritz Carlton suite in the early hours of Saturday.

Final hours, page 5

Jailed rapist can sue woman who claimed harassment

BY TIM JONES, FRANCES GIBB AND JOANNA BALE

A CONVICTED rapist accused of harassing a woman with letters and phone calls from prison was yesterday given permission to sue her for libel for writing to the police about his behaviour.

Lynne Griffiths was said to be "devastated and bewildered" by the decision by the Court of Appeal in which costs were also awarded against her.

David Daniels's earlier attempt to sue her was thrown out in the High Court an abuse of process designed to harass the woman with "no prospect of success".

But yesterday, in a ruling which has far-reaching implications for the legal status of written complaints from the public to the police, the Apeal Court said he had the right to sue.

The ruling is at odds with one from the same court in July which said that witnesses who make statments in connection with possible criminal proceedings are entitled to immunity from any civil action brought on the basis of their statements.

Daniels, 43, was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1983 for one charge of rape and three of attempted rapes. For a year he terrorised a district of Swansea and was dubbed the Beast of Mount Pleasant Hill.

Armed with a flick knife, he pounced on girls as they walked up the hill or attacked them after offering them lifts in his car. He threatened to cut the breasts off one girl and stabbed another girl in her thighs.

Mrs Griffiths, a bank clerk, only knew Daniels because he served her while he was employed at a local newsagents close to where she worked. But Daniels began writing to her as soon as he was jailed claiming they had a relationship which never became physical. He also wrote to her husband asking him to get her to sign an admission to help him gain his release.

Mrs Griffiths complained to the police "in desperation" after receiving numerous letters and telephone calls from Daniels while he was at Gartree prison.

In a statement to the court, she said: "The constant harassment was affecting the health and happiness of my family." In 1994, Daniels's application for release was turned down by the parole board which said his feelings for Mrs Griffiths were "pathological."

He then tried to sue Mrs Griffiths for libel claiming her letter to police had led the parole board to conclude that he was mentally unstable and would be a danger to her if he was released.

Cherie Booth, QC, argued that the letter to South Wales Police was libellous and he should have the chance to sue her and cross-examine her in court so the truth of his claims

Continued on page 2, col 5

Daniels: was sentenced to life in 1983

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MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

IT TAKES an old pro to show how things are done. During exchanges on the single currency, but keen to ask about single mothers, Dennis Skinner reminded MPs that Marks & Spencer *was planning to accept* payment in euros — "and some of these customers will be single mothers".

The Speaker sighed. "And some single mothers will have *less* to spend, because ... " And he was away. Gordon Brown stonewalled, of course, but Skinner had got it off his chest.

Brown stonewalls well. Alistair Darling, his impressive Chief Secretary, is learning. Darling, who has *removed* his beard, grows smoother at every session.

But yesterday he slipped. Invited by the charmingly-named Howard Stoate (Lab, Dartford) to say a few words on the wonderfulness of the Government, Darling thought he heard a Tory jeer. This stung *him*.

"They scoff," he said, "but the stock market is up, *a sign that business has absolute confidence in this Government*" [my italics].

Stop! Stock markets can go down. One day this one will. Then enemies will ask whether — since the Chief Secretary stated on November *27, 1997*, that a rising market shows business "has absolute confidence" in Government — he now accepts that business has no confidence. Read my lips, Mr D: "A-v-o-i-d h-o-s-t-a-g-e-s t-o f-o-r-t-u-n-e."

I have been making a study of the things politicians wish they never said. Sometimes (as in Mr Darling's case) the mistake lies not in the remark, which may be true, but in the making of it — which may be unwise.

But there is a quite different category of political *mis-utterance*, a category for which the session which followed later that afternoon looks likely to have yielded a rich harvest. When politicians commit themselves to opinions about technical matters they do not understand, time finds them out. David Clarke made a statement on "Computers (Millennium Compliance)". We gathered this was something to do with the problem of getting computer year-dates to begin with a 2.

This Sketch does not mock. The *Midland Bank (quoted yesterday)* is doubtless right in giving a warning that one business in five may go bust. But I do not pretend to know. MPs pretend. For the Tories, Cheryl Gillan (Chesham and Amersham) went on so long about "embedded systems" and "the cap gemini *survey*" that Skinner shouted, "Hurry up, the millennium's arrived."

Rhodri Morgan (Lab, Cardiff West) said this was the biggest thing since calendars changed from Julian to Gregorian "in 1720 or whatever". His excitement mounted. "An issue the whole House and whole country needs to be involved in!" he cried.

For the Liberal Democrats, Malcolm Bruce was reduced by the *importance* of it all *to stammering* "The gap is huge!" and predicting a public-spending meltdown.

And they may all be right, of course. But in moments of scepticism, I comfort myself with the words of Prime Minister Asquith on decimal currency ("You would have a revolution within a week"), those of Mr Scott-Montague, MP, in 1903, on cars ("I do not believe the introduction of motor-cars will ever affect the riding of horses"), Colonel Ashley, MP, Roads Minister, in 1927 ("I do not think it would be practicable to introduce pedestrian crossings in London") and *Major Shaw, MP, in 1936* ("I am perfectly convinced the role of the cavalry is as important today as it has been throughout the ages").

☐ *Read My Lips*, a treasury of things politicians wish they hadn't said, compiled by Matthew Parris and Phil Mason, *is published by* Penguin today.

Beckett's office 'gets thousands from secret trust'

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

MARGARET BECKETT is receiving financal assistance from a blind trust set up before the election, despite a pledge by the Labour leadership to publicise the names of all its donors.

The President of the Board of Trade is using the confidential source of money to help to run her constituency office, which is managed by her husband, Leo, in the Commons.

The revelation that a senior Cabinet minister has maintained a trust fund, which was set up when she was in *Opposition, will be seized on* by Tory MPs to try to revive the charge of Labour sleaze. They will today press Mrs Beckett to name the donors or close the trust.

Only yesterday Sir Patrick Neill, QC, who replaced Lord Nolan as the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, confirmed that his inquiry into fundraising would investigate blind trusts.

Two Labour MPs and two other individuals are the anonymous trustees of the Margaret Beckett Research and Administration Trust, which channels thousands of pounds each year into her office. The trust is registered in the latest Commons register of MPs' interests.

Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and John Prescott, who operated trusts before the election to run their offices, wound them up on May 1. The organiser of Mr Blair's blind trust, Michael Levy, was given a life peerage after the election. The Labour leader has committed the party to publicising the names of all its donors who give more than £5,000.

The money raised by Mrs Beckett's trustees is *channelled through the Commons* fees office to pay the salary of a researcher in her Commons office. Although the trustees of Mr Blair's blind trust, which was thought to have raised at least £500,000 a year, were publicised, the trustees behind Mrs Beckett's fund have not been made public.

Mr Beckett said: "They would prefer to retain their confidentality. They do not want to be in the public eye. We are happy to respect that." Mr Beckett denied that he and his wife were in breach of any rules, and said that they had obtained clearance from the Nolan committee. Although Mr Beckett said that he would not name the donors, he said that they were not suitable to be compared to Bernie Ecclestone, the head of Formula One, who gave the Labour Party £1 million. "They are not in that class," he said.

Mrs Beckett, once regarded as a left-wing firebrand, has the use of a grace-and favour apartment in Admiralty Arch in London as President of the Board of Trade. Cabinet ministers earn an annual salary of £87,851 and receive an office allowance of £47,568.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parlamentary Commissioner for Standards, investigated Mr Blair's blind trust and found no evidence of any wrongdoing. The trusts are regarded as a legitimate device for politicians to raise finance as they cannot be accused of responding to donations if they do not know who provided the finance. But Sir Gordon was known to be unhappy about the arrangement. Members of the new Neill committee are in favour of maximum disclosure, including the names of the trustees.

Margaret Beckett with her husband, Leo. He declined to name the donors

Blair ends 100 years of lobby secrecy

By Philip Webster

TONY BLAIR brought 100 years of official secrecy surrounding relations between Downing Street and the press to an end yesterday by announcing that, *from now on*, his official spokesman would go "on the record".

Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, took a microphone and tape-recorder to the meeting of the Lobby, the 120-strong group of accredited political correspondents, *which has been in operation* at Westminster since 1884. There have been regular briefings for more than 60 years, almost always unattributable.

A 30-minute gathering which has often been shrouded in a rather spurious mystery was recorded for the first time.

Mr Campbell will be known as the Prime Minister's official spokesman. The hope is that his words will have added authority through being an on-the-record representation of Mr Blair's position, and that the credibility of anonymous sources giving a conflicting view of the government line will be diminished.

Mr Campbell will not be named because, he said, such *a move would be to build up* an unelected official into a figure in his own right.

Peter Riddell, page 13

Royal finances open to public scrutiny

By Nicholas Watt, political correspondent

THE Queen's *finances are* to be opened to public scrutiny for the first time in a move by the Commons public spending watchdog to enhance efforts to modernise the monarchy.

Under the radical reform plan nearly £50 million of taxpayers' money that finances the Royal Household will be open for inspection by the National Audit Office, which reports to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

It means that MPs will be able to question Palace officials on their expenditure and issue critical reports if they decide that money is being *spent unwisely. Government* departments have been wary of the committee's stringent powers since the PAC was set up by Gladstone in 1861 when he was Chancellor.

Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is to discuss the plan with David Davis, the new Conservative chairman of the PAC. The Government and all the main parties appear to be in sympathy.

Mr Davis, Minsiter for Europe in the last government, launched the initiative within weeks of taking over his *new* job. The *grants* that will come under scrutiny are the £8.9 million annual Civil List, which finances the working expenses of the Queen, the *Duke* of *Edinburgh* and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The Queen receives £7.9 million a year and the Duke and the Queen Mother receive £500,000 each. Other grants are £20.4 million for the royal residences and £19.5 million for the Queen's transport. The grants will be scrutinised by Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Queen's massage 10

A senior ministerial source said last night that the Government was committed to greater transparency in public finances. The source pointed out that the Government had recently removed the "not for NAO eyes" stipulation that barred the Audit Office from examining key areas of public finance.

Mr Davis admitted *that the* plan would be controversial but he said it was in the interests of the Queen for her finances to be scrutinised. He said: "The Royal Family is making great efforts to increase transparency and openness in its affairs. Those efforts will strengthen public support for the monarchy and we can all applaud them. Our proposals go entirely with the grain of those efforts." He made clear that the Queen's own finances should remain private.

The reform comes amid a *determined effort by the* Palace to be more open about the Queen's finances. The grants for travel and royal residences are audited by Palace accountants who *publish* a report. The Palace does not publish details of the Civil List because that is a matter for the Treasury. It is understood that the Queen is making savings that will be declared.

Mr Davis's proposals have won strong support from across the political spectrum. Robert Maclennan, a Liberal Democrat member of the finance committee, hailed the reforms as an important *modernising step. He said:* "Wherever public money goes the NAO ought to have the right to follow it."

Rapist allowed to sue

Continued from page 1

could be tested to "convince the prison authorities he is not mad."

Ms Booth said: "He has always maintained there was no physical relationship but there was a strong affection between *them which she could* not acknowledged. He believes that that was what led him to commit the offence and to being misunderstood by the psychiatrists."

Christopher Vosper, representing Mrs Griffiths, told the Appeal Court that Daniels's *attempt to launch* legal action was a "manifestation of his obsession" and he was trying to use the courts as a way of seeing her and being in the same room as her.

Sir Brian Neill, giving the lead ruling, said that unless he can establish the true position through a libel action, he "has no prospect of correcting this misconception and therefore no realistic prospect of obtaining parole".

The judges said immunity for civil actions against complaints *to the police did not* extend to all the statments made by the woman when complaining about the man, only to those relating to a possible offence. While the woman's statement alleging harassment were protected under the immunity, her complaints went *wider, the judges* said.

Their ruling means that in future, statements made by witnesses to the police will not automatically be protected by a legal immunity.

Mrs Griffiths's solicitor, Tim Rees, said: "This is a very fine line. It is going to be very difficult for people to help the police to know where they stand.

"The Court of Appeal has sought to limit the extent of the immunity and said that there *may be statements made by* my client in a separate context — in this case to help the Parole Board — and that such statements are not immune."

Because Daniels won yesterday's appeal against an order that his claim was an abuse of process of the courts, *the three judges* had *to allow* him his costs against Mrs Griffiths.

Mrs Griffiths's lawyer, Ann Morgan, of Douglas-Jones Mercer in Swansea, said: "My client is devastated and bewildered."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leading Unionist shot in the head

A leading unionist was shot and critically wounded in north Belfast last night, the victim of what appeared to be an internal loyalist dispute. The man, named as Jackie Mahood, was shot in the head by two masked gun*men* in the Crumlin Road.

The shooting came as Northern Ireland's Unionists prepared for a conference at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire today aimed at uniting David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and the Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties.

Opera post

The Royal Opera House yesterday appointed Judy Grahame to sort out its troubled image. For the *past two years she has* been marketing manager of the BBC Proms and helped the London Philharmonic Orchestra to win its residency at the Festival Hall.

Au pair refusal

Louise Woodward, who was convicted of the manslaughter of a baby in her care, said she has "no intention" of selling her story. In a statement released in Boston, where she is living pending her appeal, Miss Woodward said: "We have turned down six-figure offers."

On-line lottery

An on-line computer *lot*tery with 50 draws a day and a maximum jackpot of £25,000 was launched. Tickets for Pronto!, sold initially in pubs and clubs, will cost £1 each with 20p going to charity. But the Government believes *it will encourage* addictive gambling.

Forensic tests

***Police searching for* Gracia Morton, 40, who disappeared in west London two weeks ago, have asked forensic scientists to examine certain items. Scotland Yard refused to comment on a report that these include a page from a *motoring* atlas with a bloodstained palm print.**

Driving purge

The Government yesterday signalled a fresh assault on drink-driving by announcing moves to target serious and persistent offenders. Proposals to reduce the drink-drive limit will also be included in a government consultation exercise on cutting drink-drive deaths.

Falkland link

Falkland Islanders will be getting their first live television service from Britain for Christmas. A 24-hour satellite link is due to begin *on Monday*, carrying programmes from the BBC and ITV, and live football matches from Sky.

Santa's surprise, page 41

Farson dies

Dan Farson, above, the writer, photographer and drinker, died aged 70 in a Devon hospital yesterday after a long battle against cancer of the pancreas. Farson found fame as a raconteur on London's Soho pub scene and was a drinking partner of the late Jeffrey Bernard.

Stewart sacked

Rod Stewart, the rock singer, has been sacked as patron of a Royal British Legion club in Muswell Hill, North London, because he donated only £100 in his four years in the position. The club had hoped he would be a major fundraiser for their cause.

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Earl's boyhood friend attacks 'malicious' case

FROM INIGO GILMORE AND CHRIS LOGAN IN CAPE TOWN

WOUNDED by accusations of adultery and cruelty, Earl Spencer went on the offensive yesterday by revealing the size of the divorce deal he has offered his estranged wife, Victoria, and encouraging his closest friend to defend his reputation.

On the steps of the Cape Town court David Horton-Fawkes dismissed allegations that the earl had had a dozen affairs as "malicious".

Mr Horton-Fawkes, who was described as a friend of the earl since childhood and manager of the Althorp estate, was careful not to blame Countess Spencer for instigating the past week of accusations. He suggested that she had been influenced by one of Lord Spencer's former lovers, Chantal Collopy, a fashion designer who is named in the divorce petition but is giving evidence for Lady Spencer.

"I cannot believe that Victoria herself, whom I have known and liked since she married Charles, would deliberately stoop to this level," he said reading from his prepared statement. He blamed Mrs Collopy who, he said, "appeared determined to become the next Countess Spencer".

Mr Horton-Fawkes, who went to Eton with the earl, has sat with him during four days of withering evidence. He said Mrs Collopy, who has backed Lady Spencer's fight for a better financial deal by having the divorce settled in England, was determined "to bring Charles down".

It was also announced that the earl's expensive legal team was surprisingly dropping attempts to prevent South African newspapers from covering in detail the allegations made against him in court.

Lord Spencer claimed that it was not only against South African law but it was also harming his children. Officially the earl said last night he did not want his divorce to become "a constitutional football".

He insisted he did not dictate what his friend said outside the court. His spokesman said "he knew David wanted to defend his name but he had no idea what he was going to say".

Mr Horton-Fawkes said that, as a friend of the earl for 20 years — and as godfather to one of the couple's four children — he was determined to "set the record straight".

Until now he had "admired the way in which Charles and Victoria have managed to maintain a civil and friendly relationship". He told of letters that Lord Spencer had written to her while she was receiving medical treatment for alcohol problems and eating disorders in which "she lovingly and touchingly thanked him for his tolerance and support". He added that "Charles would never treat the mother of his four children in a mean or malicious manner.

"Her welfare and that of his children has always been been his utmost concern and will continue to be so. I believe Victoria knows this, but her advisers don't.

Friends of the earl have been increasingly concerned at the ferocity of the allegations against him during four days of evidence. They had expected the case to be about whether the divorce should be heard in London or South Africa.

Yesterday as he sat in court in his now trademark black suit, the earl looked pensive and morose. By contrast his wife, in a long black dress, chatted and joked with her legal team and her father who sat behind her. When asked by one of her legal team if she was in good spirits, Lady Spencer, who is asking for a settlement of £3.75 million, replied confidently: "Yes".

Mrs Collopy refused to comment last night.

Jeremy Gauntlett, Lady Spencer's barrister, said Mr Horton-Fawkes's statement "would be answered in court". Both women are expected to give evidence next week.

THE OFFER

Earl Spencer has offered his estranged wife a £310,000 lump sum, plus £2,500 maintenance a month for the rest of her life or until she remarries. Countess Spencer would be given the Silverhurst estate house — worth nearly £300,000 — where she lives in Cape Town with their four children. She would also get the contents of the house and a Mercedes. Lord Spencer would also pay for her private medical insurance. There would be provision for anything that the children needed, including clothes, equipment, education and all health matters, but the deal would be reassessed if she returned to Britain. Lord Spencer's barrister, Leslie Weinkove, said outside the court that maintenance of £2,500 a month would give Lady Spencer a higher income than that of a judge in South Africa.

SASA KRALJ

Countess Spencer outside the court yesterday. She said she was in good spirits

Neighbour sent phone tapes of affair to jilted wife

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PENSIONERS' love affair was exposed when calls from the husband of a Women's Institute chairman to his mistress over a cordless telephone were picked up by a neighbour's radio.

According to Yvonne Davison, her 72-year-old neighbour in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, Vernon Pearson, made tape recordings of her conversations with Bill Lichfield, 67. The recordings were sent to Mr Lichfield's wife, Doreen, chairman of the Women's Institute in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire.

The first the lovers knew of their conversations being recorded was when Mrs Lichfield began divorce proceedings and information from the tapes was used in court. Police arrested Mr Pearson and confiscated 84 tapes and transcripts, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided to take no further action.

Last night Mrs Davison, 60, a medical receptionist whose husband died six years ago, said she and Mr Lichfield began to suspect someone was eavesdropping as soon as legal procedings began. "Doreen always seemed to be one step ahead of us and seemed to know our movements," she said.

"Every time we went to court she was prepared for everything that could be thrown at her and was armed with evidence. They had a carrier bag of tapes with them on one occasion."

She said she was shocked when Police told her Mr Pearson had been taping the calls. "I thought that all the time he lived here he was the friend from next door, but he was actually the spy from next door."

Mr Pearson said: "I don't deny that I taped Mrs Davison's calls. It was done under very special circumstances. I'm not worried about this at all, I haven't done anything wrong."

Mr Pearson learnt the Lichfields' address when they sent flowers on the death of Mrs Davison's husband.

Bounties 'may help recover stolen millions'

By STEWART TENDLER

FINANCIAL "bounty hunters" from the City should be recruited to trace millions of pounds hidden away by sophisticated criminals, a leading policeman said yesterday.

Auditors and accountants would be paid initially to start investigations but would take a percentage of what they recouped, making the scheme self-financing.

Sir Geoffrey Dear, an Inspector of Constabulary and former Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said in a report on the National Criminal Intelligence Service that police forces currently used teams of detectives to trace assets, but the work was slow and often unproductive.

Sir Geoffrey said that action must be taken to strip major criminals of their money or they could become untouchable. He also called for laws modelled on American anti-Mafia and Irish gang-busting legislation which would allow the seizure of cash or property.

Sir Geoffrey described some of the underworld's multimillionaires investigated by NCIS. One, known as "A", is thought to be Curtis Warren, the former Liverpool drug trafficker, who was worth more than £80 million when he was caught.

"D" built up a £400 million empire through investing stolen property in legitimate property deals and moving into the international underworld.

Sir Geoffrey said modern criminals were using the latest technology, the Internet, encryption of messages and electronic transfer of funds and "all other accessible means to protect their gains". The global market had an underworld mirror image and British criminals were laundering their assests into legal commercial ventures and firms abroad.

Man who fought shy of media braves the limelight

THE appearance of Earl Spencer's "closest and oldest friend" on the steps of the Supreme Court in Cape Town came as a surprise yesterday.

David Horton-Fawkes was at Eton with the earl, and contemporaries remember them as inseparable. The earl asked him to be best man at his wedding, but he declined, saying he was afraid of media intrusion. At Althrop he is described as estate manager.

He said yesterday: "I have known Charles Spencer for 20 years and helped look after his interests in England for the past three years. I have spent many happy days at Althrop as a guest of Charles and Victoria. I am godfather to one of their children. I am so incensed by the lies we have been forced to read that I am prepared to endure any exposure in order to set the record straight and speak out independently.

"I first moved to the Althrop estate in England on April 1, 1995, shortly after the break-up of his marriage. Until now I have admired the way in which Charles and Victoria have managed to maintain a civil and friendly relationship.

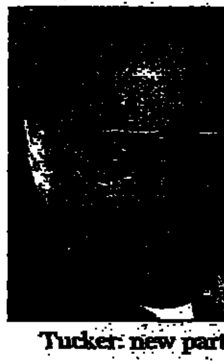
"I would be prepared to remain quiet, had it not become abundantly clear that Victoria has been persuaded or advised to use this public forum and the protection of open court to make allegations against Charles. I cannot believe that Victoria herself would deliberately stoop to this level. She has been befriended by Chantal Collopy, who, when I met her in England, appeared determined to become the next Countess Spencer.

"Sensational allegations have been made against my friend, under the privilege of court, which documents sworn as true by Victoria, emphatically contradict.

"I was living at Althrop [when] Charles was looking after his four children single-handedly, when allegedly these dozen women were supposed to have been cavorting with him — I am utterly amazed by these allegations. I know that Charles would never treat the mother of his children in a mean or malicious manner."

Earl Spencer and Mr Horton-Fawkes yesterday

RAF officer says sex with Serbian interpreter was a disaster



Tucker: new partner

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE RAF officer accused of murdering his wife for the love of a Serbian translator said yesterday that the liaison was "a bit of a sexual disaster". Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker, 46, admitted a shortlived affair but told the jury that he had not killed his wife.

He announced his intention to remarry if acquitted, but the judge at Norwich Crown Court declined his offer to write down the name of his new partner. During two hours in the witness box, the officer, who met Dijana Dudokovic, 21, while serving in Bosnia as a United Nations military observer, said: "She was very flirtatious, fascinating to be with, very vivacious, and a very good interpreter. I became friendly with her. We were just very good friends."

A sexual relationship developed only when he arranged to bring her on leave to England five months later. They stayed at the RAF Club in Piccadilly before touring the New Forest and the South Coast. Only twice had they made love, near the end of their secret week together. "It was while we were staying in Southampton," he said. "It was a bit of a disaster, to put it bluntly. I couldn't hack it.

"After that, it was the wrong time of the month for her. I never had sexual intercourse with her on any other occasion." After the couple had returned independently to Yugoslavia, the relationship had reverted to a friendship.

Mr Tucker denies murdering his wife in 1995, when he is alleged to have staged a crash. Their car plunged into the River Lark, Suffolk, as they returned from a pub meal. Carol Tucker, 52, was found drowned under a bridge. The prosecution says that her husband had first asphyxiated her.

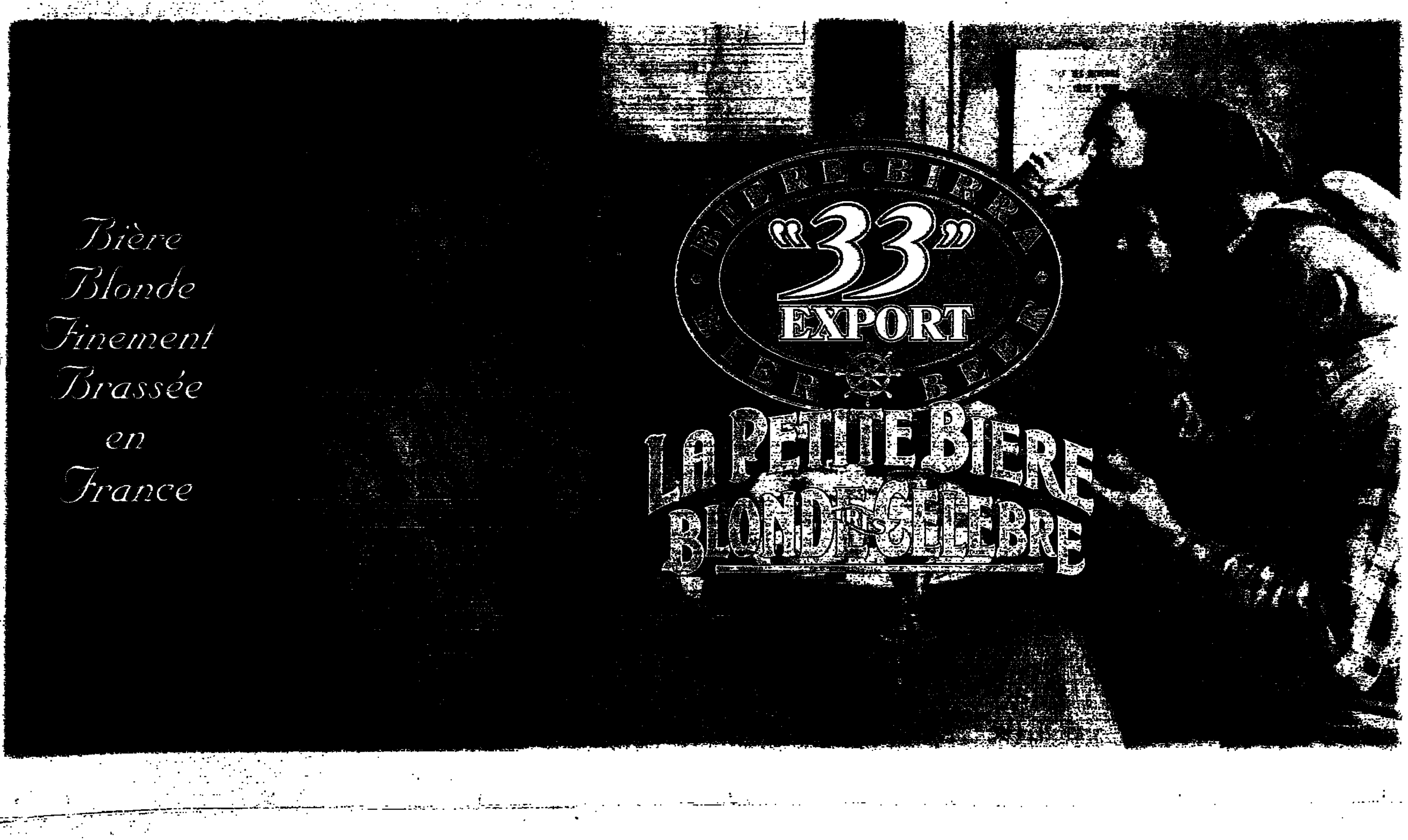
Mr Tucker said that he had few recollections of the accident, which was "over in a flash of a second". He said: "We were chatting. Carol shouted something to the effect, 'Mind the deer', which we saw in the road momentarily before me. I honestly don't know how fast I was going, it would have been higher than 30mph.

"Her arm moved, and my recollection is she grabbed the steering wheel. I say that because the movement to the left was more than me steering. At that point, I saw two animals in the road. My immediate thought was that they were dogs. Perhaps the size of labradors."

He retained three pictures in his memory: the animals, the reflection of headlights shining on weeds on the riverbank and water cascading down the windscreen. Mr Tucker said he telephoned Ms Dudokovic in Switzerland, where she now lives with her husband, two days after the accident to tell her of his wife's death.

"Her immediate reaction was she thought I was playing some kind of sick joke, but then she was utterly dumbfounded and shocked". He agreed he made several phone calls to her, partly because of concern over events in Yugoslavia. He continued to telephone her as a friend.

The trial continues today.



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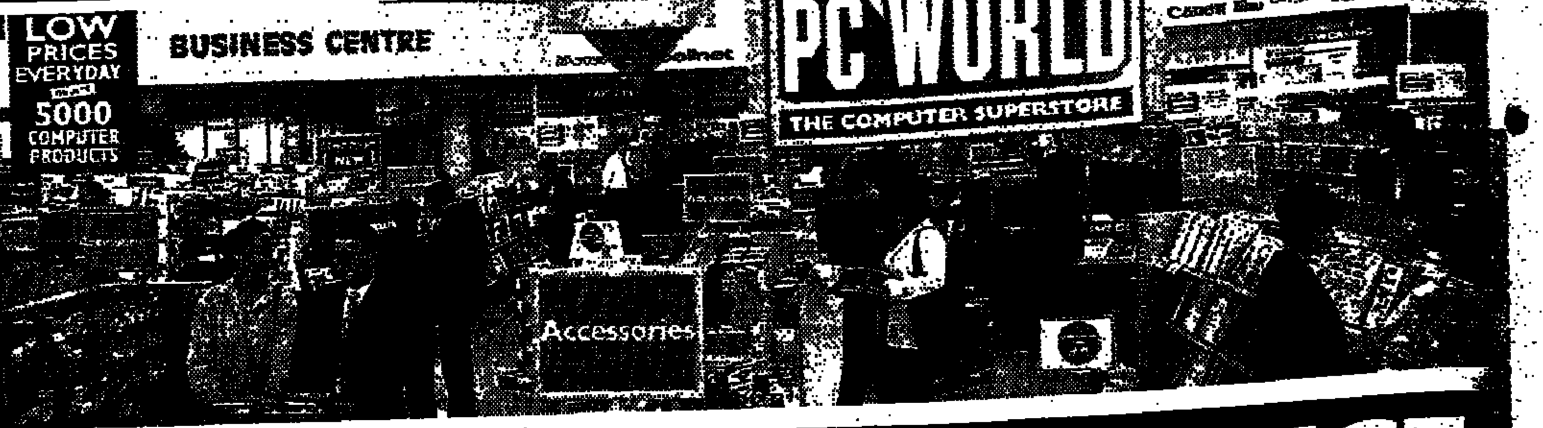

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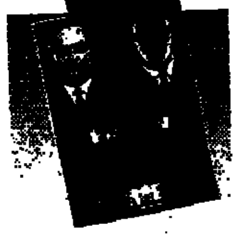

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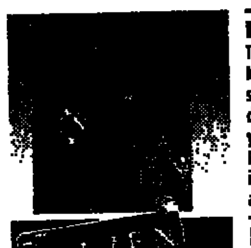

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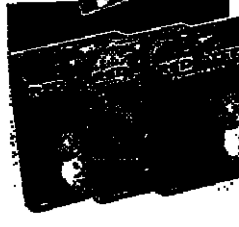

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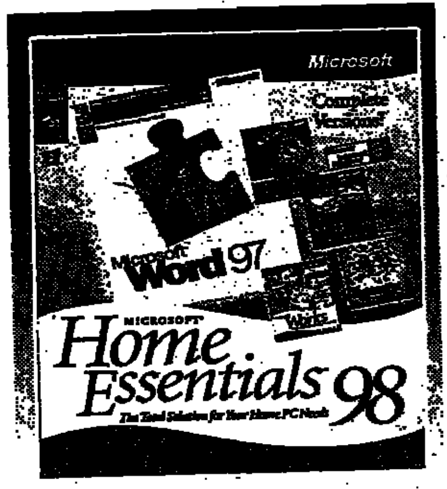
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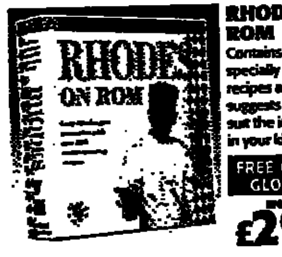

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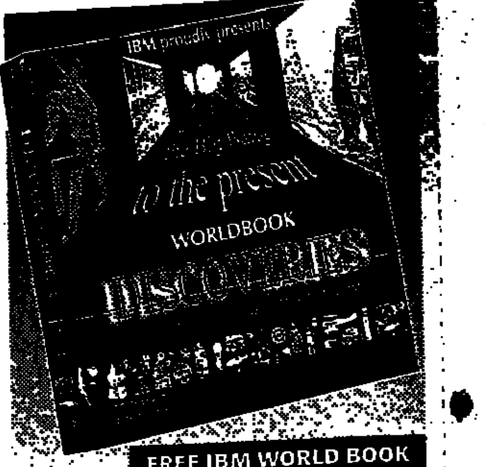

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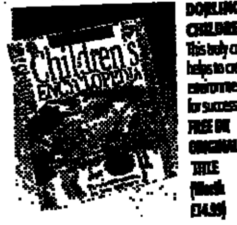

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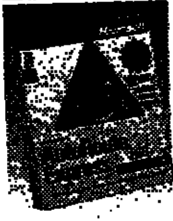

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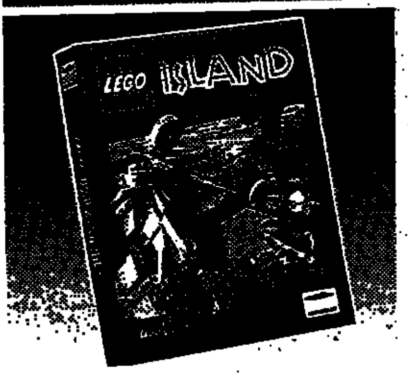

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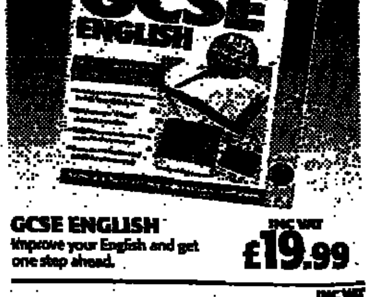

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'He didn't try to hide away at all. He was very, very open and relaxed and natural'

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RICK RYCROFT / AP

Among mourners at the Sydney funeral yesterday were Kylie Minogue, second from left, and Sophie Lee, an actress, second from right. Kym Wilson, right, the actress who was one of the last people to see Hutchence alive, was also present

Last acts of a rock tragedy

BY ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

IN THE rich history of rock star tragedies, Michael Hutchence's sudden death fits a pattern that will ensure his place in the music industry's hall of fame for years to come. In an industry where premature death is a prerequisite for heroism, he has already gained a degree of immortality.

While there are still many unanswered questions about the events surrounding the singer's final hours, police have pieced together a remarkably detailed picture of what happened before and after his tragic end.

At 6.30pm on Friday, Michael's father Kell Hutchence reserved a table at the Taste of India restaurant in Sydney for a family dinner. They arrived together at 7.45pm casually dressed and smiling and took a window table. Ashley Totani, the manager, said: "Usually with these kind of people, the big stars, they like to sit with their backs to the room. He didn't. He sat looking into the restaurant. He didn't try to hide away at all. He was very, very open and relaxed and natural."

Michael did not eat much and at one stage in the evening his father appeared to show some concern. He put his hand on that of his son and remarked: "I'm very worried about you Michael. *Is everything all right?*" Michael replied: "Dad, I'm fine."

Kell drove his son back to the Ritz Carlton Hotel at about 11pm. At about 11.10pm Hutchence went into a bar at the hotel, which is in the exclusive Sydney harbourside suburb of Double Bay. He had a drink with some friends and applauded the female singer. Just before midnight, Hutchence and Kym Wilson, the Australian actress, took the lift to the rock star's fifth floor suite. She was not spotted again until she left at 4am. For the next five hours, hotel records show that Hutchence made several telephone calls from his hotel room. He is belived to have spoken to Paula Yates and Bob Geldof.

At 7am on Saturday he telephoned a friend, Michelle Bennet, and arranged to meet her for breakfast. She was asleep in bed so he left a message on *her answering machine that said:* "It's seven o'clock. I need to talk to you. Goodnight." Michelle arrived at the Ritz Carlton just before 10am but failed to get an answer from his room. She arranged for a note to be *slid under his* door and left.

At 11.55am a maid used her pass key to enter Hutchence's suite. Inside she found his body hanging from a leather belt attached to a spring door hinge.

Shortly after noon on Saturday police and ambulance officers arrived and declared Michael Hutchence dead. There were empty beer bottles, cocktail glasses and a bottle of French Champagne in the room. Police sources said the bed had been stripped back and there was evidence of sexual actitivity having taken place, but they could not say when.

It was some days before Kym Wilson *gave a statement to police, but she told* friends that Michael appeared to have been in a very positive mood and gave no indication of wanting to take his life.

A post mortem examination revealed *that Hutchence had hanged himself*, but there were no suspicious circumstances.

JEFF DARMANIN

Relatives and members of Hutchence's band, INXS, bearing his coffin away

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Hunt lobby attacks 'emotional blackmail'

Supporters of hunting gathered for a last blast of defiance before MPs cast their votes in the Commons today, reports **Michael Hornsby**

IAN HODGSON/REUTERS

Members of seven Leicestershire hunts and supporters gathered in protest at a Countryside Alliance rally at Melton Mowbray yesterday

PRO-HUNT campaigners accused their opponents of "emotional blackmail" yesterday as they faced the prospect of a resounding defeat in today's second reading vote in the Commons on a Private Member's Bill to ban their sport.

They were resigned to a large majority in favour of the Bill, and were relying on the Government to refuse to allocate enough time for the legislation to complete its passage.

Robin Hanbury-Tenison, leader of the Countryside Alliance, the umbrella body for all field sports, said: "We have seen anti-hunt groups spending up to £5 million on misleading advertisements in what amounts to a campaign of emotional blackmail."

Mallalieu: said she had never seen such anger

Even if 73 per cent of the population supported a ban, as some polls suggested, that still left 27 per cent who did not. "That is about 15.5 million people, or about two million more than elected the Labour Party at the last election. Some minority," he said.

Baroness Mallalieu, a Labour member of the House of Lords and leader of a small group in the party opposed to a hunting ban, said she had never encountered such anger and determination among country people as had been aroused by the Bill, sponsored by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester. She said: "Millions of people are saying that they do not want to live in a country which is governed by *majority dictation*."

About 150 country sports workers and supporters began a 24-hour vigil yesterday near the House of Commons in protest against the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, which would make hunting fox, deer, hare and mink a criminal offence subject to a maximum fine of £5,000 or imprisonment for up to six months.

Among them was Mark Allen, from Stratford-on-Avon, with his two hunting dogs. He said: "I am just a labourer who earns £60 a day. Hunting is one of the most socially mixed pastimes in the whole of the country and it is outrageous that it is a socialist Government that is trying to ban hunting."

In a letter to MPs, the *Countryside Alliance* said hunting was the best and most humane way of controlling foxes. "A fox in prime condition is faster and smarter than any foxhound," it said. "The odds are in favour of the fox and most that are hunted survive. Should a fox be caught by hounds, its death is very quick and there is no risk *of wounding*."

Seven Leicestershire hunts — the Quorn, Cottesmore, Belvoir, Fernie and Atherstone foxhounds, the Westerby Bassets and the Oakley Foot Beagles — staged a parade on Melton Mowbray aerodrome yesterday in protest against the Bill. The organisers claimed that 4,000 people on *foot and 800 horses and riders* took part.

Vini Faal, chairman of the Sharston Terrier and Lurcher Club, told the gathering: "Last week I met an a Welsh ex-miner who follows hounds. He said to me: 'I never thought I would be arguing with a Labour MP. The Tories took away my living, now the *Labour Party want to take* away my life."

Jim Barrington, a former executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "A hunting ban will not improve the welfare of a single fox. I would like to see an independent authority set up to supervise and regulate the sport."

Leading article, and Letters, page 23

Ease your hell, girl's father tells murderer

THE parents of the murdered schoolgirl Kate Bushell yesterday appealed to her killer to give himself up to relieve his "private hell".

Jeremy Bushell, 44, who found his daughter's body in a field near their home, said: "There is a very, very sick person there who is basically living in hell, and his private hell can only be relieved by coming forward."

His daughter, 14, had her throat cut while walking a neighbour's dog in Exeter. Suzanne Bushell said: "She's always going to be with us. We had 14 lovely years with her."

Asked whether he had heard rumours that the lane the girl used was unsafe, Mr Bushell said: "We had not heard anything specific. You cannot live your life in a cocoon. You have got to live it in the world where you are."

Police have received 1,700 calls from the public but have not found the murder knife.

CORRECTIONS

☐ A heading on a report (November 24) did not reflect the views of Martin Kemp, British Academy Wolfson Research Professor. He has called for a debate on the restoration of works of art, not a halt to that work.

☐ Scottish Telecom has concluded a joint venture agreement with Martin Dawes Telecommunications Ltd. It has not bought that company, as reported on November 17.

Europe may catch cold from global warming

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor, and Nick Nuttall

EUROPE should prepare for temperatures to fall to Arctic levels, even though meteorologists have declared 1997 the Earth's hottest year on record, an American scientist says.

Wallace Broecker, of Columbia University in New York, says the effect of global warming on the North Atlantic could disrupt the "motor" that drives ocean circulation. If so, the Gulf Stream would be turned off and winter temperatures in northern Europe would fall by at least 1[illegible]C within a decade. Britain would be as cold as Spitzbergen, 600 miles inside the Arctic Circle.

Meteorological Office figures show that this year will be 0.43C warmer than the 30-year average.

Ocean currents, including *the Gulf Stream, are driven by* a process called the thermohaline circulation. The cold, salty water of the North Atlantic is the driving force, sinking to the ocean bottom and pushing water through the world's oceans like a huge plunger. The result, as far as northern Europe is concerned, is a huge flow of warmer surface waters, including the Gulf Stream, across the Atlantic. Northern Europe is consequently much warmer than corresponding latitudes in North America.

Forecast 26

The water of the North Atlantic has about 7 per cent more salt than that of the North Pacific, just sufficient to make it sink. If it were warmed by a few degrees, or made less salty by being *diluted by melting* ice, that could change.

If it did, Dr Broecker writes in *Science*, the consequences would be devastating. "Were this to happen a century from now, at a time when we were struggling to produce enough food to nourish the projected population of 12 to 18 billion, it could lead to widespread starvation."

His warnings come as nations are preparing for the UN climate change conference in Kyoto, Japan.

Europe is pressing for a legally binding target of a 15 per cent cut in global warming gases by 2010. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday urged Australia to make a firm commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. He was speaking in Canberra on the final leg of a four-nation tour. John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, last week released a plan to hold the country's greenhouse gas growth to 18 per cent by 2010.

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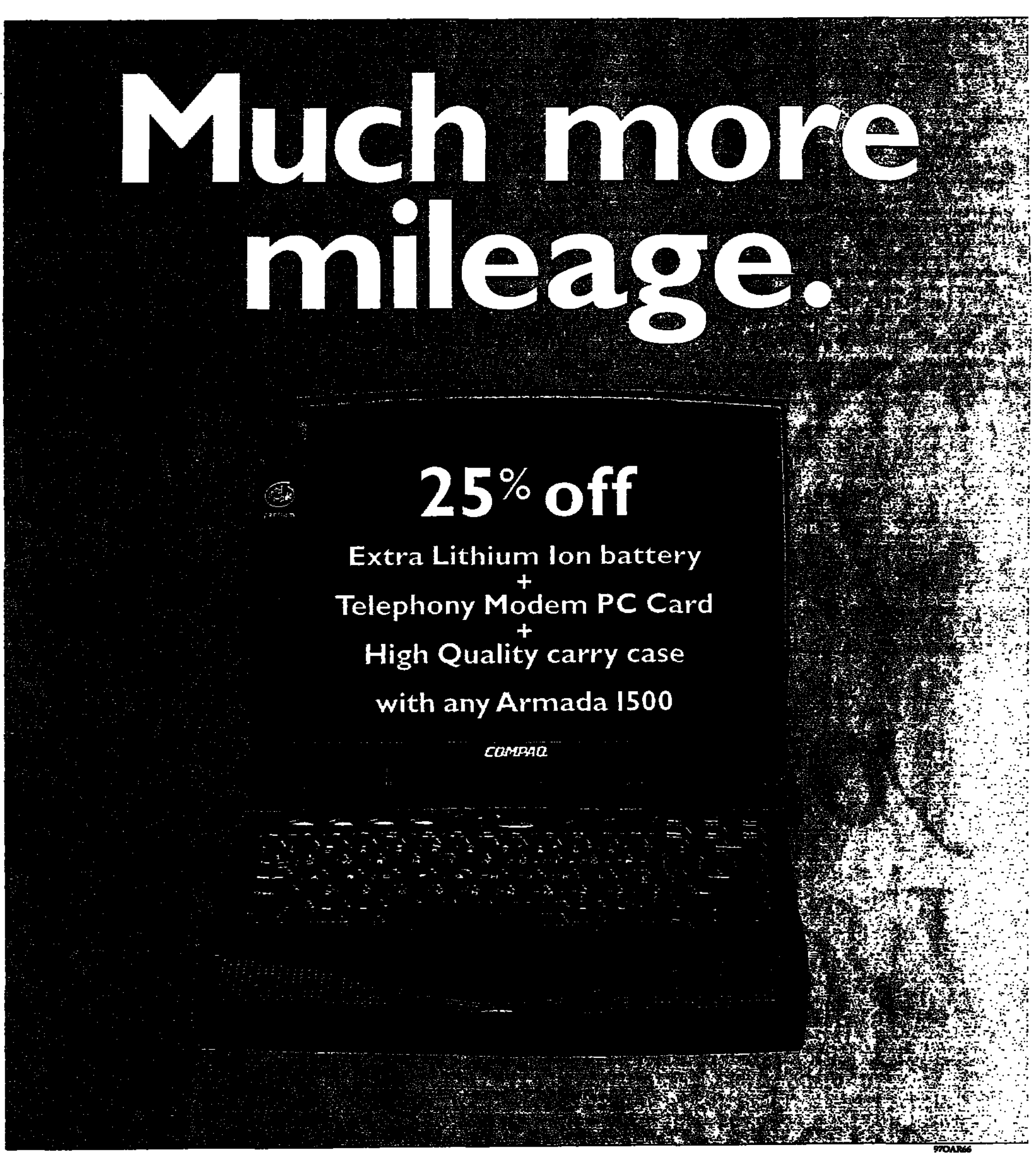

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Gay prisoners underwent sexual 'cure'

Newly released Home Office papers show inmates were given oestrogen and electric shocks in an attempt to convert them. **Valerie Elliott** reports

GAY prisoners in the 1950s were given electric shock treatment and oestrogen — a female sex hormone — in an attempt to make them heterosexual.

The effort to alter homosexuality in prison was revealed yesterday in Home Office papers released at the Public Record Office under the 30-year rule. Medical officers tried a number of experiments "to influence homosexual behaviour" and "to abolish the sexual urge".

Some prisoners asked for castration, and in some cases surgery was approved, but the prison officials preferred a combination of therapy and oestrogen. Their view was "castration of body does not mean castration of mind".

Forty-three men were given electric shock treatment or aversion therapy. Pictures of a man were flashed on a screen and, if they did not switch it off within eight seconds, they received a shock. Only 36 completed the treatment; the papers said 25 showed "significant improvement".

In an unsigned memorandum to Rab Butler, then Home Secretary, officials recognised, however, that the treatment was flawed because the majority of gay prisoners — or "inverts", as they were termed — refused treatment and others were serving sentences too short to take any benefit from it.

Butler approved the use of oestrogen in 1958 among prisoners who gave written consent, although it was not regarded as a permanent "cure". It had been forbidden previously because of the risk of making men sterile.

According to the advice "the effect of administration of oestrogen to males is to diminish the effect of the sexual urge, whether its direction is normal or abnormal ... but [it] does not effect a permanent cure".

The Prison Service found that in half those treated the men "were less likely in the future to indulge in homosexual behaviour". But of the 1,065 cases studied, 81 per cent refused treatment and 13 per cent were unsuitable.

The report states that every effort was made to turn the men's thoughts to work and "a healthy life". Gay Borstal boys were treated at Wormwood Scrubs while adult prisoners were treated at Wakefield, Maidstone and Leyhill.

The key condition for treatment was that an individual "must have a sincere wish to be relieved of tension resulting from his sexual deviation". However, prison staff said "the desire for medical treatment is often expressed but much more rarely sincerely felt".

The report to Butler asserted that, while the idea of converting gay men was attractive, "with perhaps a few exceptions, the possibility of doing so is doubtful".

Butler was also told that gay men in prison for the first time were of superior education and intelligence, while homosexuals found regularly in local prisons were usually recidivists.

The Prison Service admitted that it did not like segregating gay prisoners and accepted that some prison officers were strongly repelled by homosexual inmates and made no effort to conceal their feelings. Prison staff categorised types of homosexual — the male prostitute, the corrupter of youth, the obviously effeminate, the obnoxious and the homosexual "who tries to parade a fancied intellectual superiority to the common herd".

The "passive homo" was regarded as a great nuisance while the male prostitute was "no trouble". "It is the temperamentally female type who is the canker," the paper stated. Some prisons enlisted chaplains to influence behaviour of the gays but the report complained that many were prone to "facile religiosity".

The papers formed part of the debate in government about reforms, proposed by John Wolfenden (later Lord Wolfenden) in a Royal Commission report in 1957, to legalise sex between consenting men aged over 21. However, it was not until 1967, when Roy Jenkins was Home Secretary, that the Sexual Offences Act was passed.

Rab Butler was clearly uncomfortable with the proposed reforms. He wrote to Cabinet colleagues in 1957 that the Wolfenden report "seems to avoid the moral issues".

In 1966, as the legislation was being prepared, Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister, was urged by the National Union of Seamen to maintain a ban on gay sex at sea. Bill Hogarth, the union's general secretary, said he feared parents would not allow their sons to go to sea. "The presence of homosexuals can give rise to serious conflicts and jealousies."

Wilson promised to try to find a way around the law for the seamen.

Lord Alfred Douglas, who wanted to raise money by selling a manuscript

Minister rejected MPs' plea to help Douglas

THE Home Office refused to help a destitute and sick Lord Alfred Douglas, the former lover of Oscar Wilde, by releasing his prison manuscript of the poem *In Excelsis*.

Douglas (1870-1945) had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in 1921 for a libel against Winston Churchill, suggesting that he had been corrupted by a Jewish financier. He was allowed to continue to write his poetry in prison but, on release, he was refused his notebook.

Douglas hoped to raise money by selling the manuscript to an American collector. The Home Office view was that he had partly repeated the libel in the sonnet which begins "The leprous spawn of scattered Israel spread its contagion in your English blood ..."

A powerful group of MPs lobbied the Government to release the notebook and make a special case for such an eminent poet. But in 1942, Sir Alexander Maxwell, then Home Secretary, firmly rejected the pleadings for Douglas, then 72, from Harold Nicolson, Alan Lennox-Boyd, Henry "Chips" Channon.

Osbert Peake, a junior Home Office Minister, advised Sir Alexander: "If Douglas is now in penury his friends should do something for him." Peake was also concerned that release of the notebook would revive stories of Wilde and Douglas.

The Home Secretary agreed and made clear that he would also be criticised for favouring "people of eminence". The MPs were outraged.

PM freed suffragette who plotted to kill him

The First World War Prime Minister David Lloyd George ordered a woman who had plotted to murder him in 1917 to be freed to prevent a public relations disaster, according to secret government files released yesterday.

Ministers advised him not to release Alice Wheeldon, who was on a hunger striker, but he overruled them, saying it was "undesirable" that she should die in prison. Wheeldon was jailed for ten years after she and her daughter, Winnie, were convicted of the plot to kill the Prime Minister. She was freed from Aylesbury jail later that year because of his direct intervention.

According to the Home Office records, Wheeldon and her two daughters played a part "in the suffragette campaign of arson and sabotage". She was said to be annoyed that the First World War had interfered with the campaign for women's suffrage.

Lloyd George: he was target of poison plot

Wheeldon had annoyed the authorities by allegedly helping conscientious objectors to avoid active military service. Initial reports stated that the family was "probably a bit crazy", but an undercover investigator — who won Wheeldon's friendship — claimed that she told him he would be a "saviour to his country" by poisoning the Prime Minister, the papers said. She told him that, a couple of years earlier, she had known about a plot to kill Lloyd George, but he had escaped by going to France.

The investigator, known as Number Five, said she had four small test tubes of chemicals delivered so that he could carry out the plot. The reports concluded that there was "ample evidence" that she and others were behind the plot.

After she was jailed her family complained about her treatment, which included her being stripped. She went on hunger strike because she could not face ten years in prison.

Wheeldon died in 1919. Her son, William, covered her coffin with the red flag, according to news reports of the time.

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Chocolate and chips 'are good for children'

Doctor says diet obsession gives girls anorexia, and a bit of energy would do them good, writes **John O'Leary**

AN OBSESSION with healthy eating, exercise and vegetarianism is fuelling the growth of anorexia and bulimia among teenage girls, the director of a specialist clinic told headmistresses yesterday.

Dee Dawson, medical director of the Rhodes Farm Clinic in North London, which treats children with eating disorders, said that chips, chocolate and crisps were all sources of energy which parents and schools should welcome. Left to choose their own food, children would arrive at a naturally healthy diet.

Dr Dawson said girls at private schools were more likely to suffer from eating disorders. She told the headmistresses of independent girls' schools that at least 1 to 2 per cent of their pupils were likely to have anorexia nervosa. As many as 5 per cent of sixth formers could be bulimic. Anorexics tended to be obsessive, compulsive perfectionists, who typically had small, neat handwriting and would rip up work until they were satisfied, she said.

In her speech to the Girl's Schools Association in Bristol, Dr Dawson said that a higher percentage of children with eating disorders was found in public schools. This was because perfectionist, high-achieving children of high-flying, equally perfectionist parents were often educated privately.

"Having said that, anorexia nervosa is moving rapidly down through the social classes and is certainly not confined to prestigious schools", she said. She blamed low-fat diets, modern exercise regimes and the trend towards vegetarianism for many eating disorders.

She said that thin models had such an impact that half of all six-year-olds were worried about their weight. Only about 4 per cent of schoolchildren were truly overweight. Girls had to be told that it was natural to gain weight around puberty, and any weight loss should be recognised as a cause for concern.

The promotion of low-fat diets was dangerous to potentially anorexic children. "Children do not need to restrict their fat intake — they should drink full-cream milk, they can happily eat butter; there is not one shred of evidence to suggest that what we eat as children has any influence on the later incidence of coronary heart disease. Chocolate, cheese, crisps and chips are wonderful energy-giving foods which children need."

She believed it no coincidence that 80 per cent of her patients were vegetarian. "Children should not depend on beans and nuts for their protein. They need to eat meat." Exercise videos were also damaging: "I would like to shoot Rosemary Conley ... no amount of waving your legs in the air will reduce the amount of fat on your thighs other than its effect in burning off calories and therefore fat in general."

Dr Dawson said parents should set an example by avoiding constant talk of diet and exercise. Schools could spot potential problems early by weighing children regularly and alerting parents to any weight loss.

Dr Dawson said she feared that the Government would compound the problem by issuing healthy eating guidelines. She claimed that a leaked policy document from the Department of Health considered banning school tuck shops, chips in school canteens and restricting the sale of chocolate. She said: "Until there is evidence to the contrary, the old adage still holds true: 'A little of what you fancy does you good.'"

GRAHAM COX

Dr Dawson speaking yesterday. She said schools should weigh pupils regularly

An outspoken debunker of eating myths

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

WHEN Dee Dawson gave up her job as a hospital doctor to have her fifth child, she decided to take two or three anorexic children into her home. Within months, the demand for treatment was such that she had to extend her house and eventually move her family out.

Today, her Rhodes Farm clinic, in North London, has 32 beds and is treating anorexic children from all over Britain and further afield. Dr Dawson is also acting as a consultant to several schools and spreading her message of the damage done by food fads.

She gained a degree in biochemistry in the 1970s and spent three years researching heart disease before working in Madagascar as a volunteer. She took an MBA at the London Business School and three years later started a fashion company specialising in larger sizes.

By 1982, she had sold the business to the Burton Group and took a degree in medicine, qualifying in 1989. She practised as a part-time GP when she first began specialising in the treatment of eating disorders, but the growth of her clinic soon made this impractical. In recent years, she has become one of the most outspoken critics of the vogue for exercise and supposedly healthy eating.

She told headmistresses yesterday how her six-year-old daughter once brought a note home from her prep school asking parents not to include chocolate biscuits or crisps in lunchboxes because they were "envy-making foods".

Another note prescribed early bedtimes because children were tired in the afternoon. She said: "Could it be, I thought, that they were tired because they were eating celery sticks and carrot instead of a Mars bar, which could indeed have helped them work, rest and play?"

The answer is to strike a balance

MEDICAL BRIEFING

FEW doctors would agree with Dee Dawson in her contention that dietary fat in childhood has no influence on later health.

The evidence from post-mortem examinations on young American servicemen killed in the Korean War showed that, by the early 1950s, the postwar diet, which is unduly reliant upon convenience foods with a high fat content, had increased the amount of atheroma in the coronary arteries and aorta. This evidence of cardiovascular disease showed to a greater extent than before.

There is an implied suggestion in Dr Dawson's remarks that keeping the calorie intake derived from fat low might encourage the children to take less than 10 per cent of the daily energy requirement in fat. Ten per cent is the absolute minimum which is essential for the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins, healthy cell production and for lubrication to enhance food flavour and to make it easy to swallow.

Anything which gives over-emphasis to the body beautiful, including excessive exercise, can be destructive. Adults who are obsessed about their children's appearance and performance, both physical and mental, are likely also to be interfering, over-intrusive and incapable of allowing their children to develop their independence.

Excessive anxiety about fat is likely to be symptomatic of other, greater, problems in parenthood which will not be eased by encouraging a diet rich in cheese, chips and double cream.

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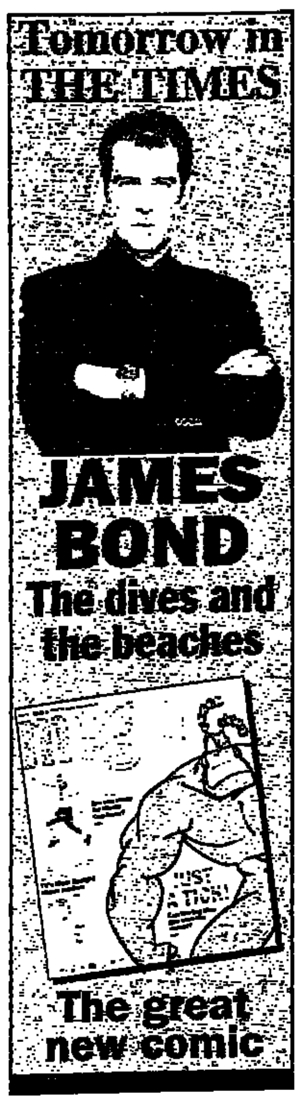

Princess Royal wants Britannia to be scuttled

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

AN APPEAL by the Princess Royal for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* to be scuttled instead of preserved as a tourist attraction could embarrass the Government. Ministers have already concluded that a decision to scrap the yacht would cause public outrage.

The Princess made it clear that she would prefer *Britannia* to be scrapped because she fears the yacht would not be maintained properly in private hands. Her comments were made while she was attending the last official royal engagement on *Britannia* before she is decommissioned on December 11. She said: "Do you realise that the brasses are cleaned every day — not every month or every week, but every day? Nobody could do that. I think she should be scuttled."

HMY Britannia

The Princess, who spent her first honeymoon on *Britannia*, was on the yacht, in Portsmouth, in her capacity as president of the Royal Naval Museum Trust, which held a reception for 200 supporters and sponsors on Wednesday night. She said she hated to think of *Britannia* being left to deteriorate. The most dignified end for the 43-year-old yacht would be for her to be sunk.

Government sources made it clear yesterday that the option to scrap *Britannia* had effectively been ruled out. One Cabinet minister said: "Just as Michael Portillo [as Defence Secretary] was criticised by the public for announcing that *Britannia* was to be replaced by a £60 million yacht at taxpayers' expense, so we would be criticised for scrapping the yacht."

There are seven bids in for *Britannia*, all from organisations that propose to preserve her as a floating museum and tourist attraction. The Government has to decide whether her final resting place should be the Pool of London, Canary Wharf, Greenwich, the Clyde, Edinburgh or the Manchester Ship Canal. Ministers are studying the bids and are expected to make a decision next week.

Yesterday Leo Madden, leader of Portsmouth City Council, presented John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, with a petition signed by more than 10,700 people calling for *Britannia* to be retained in Portsmouth.

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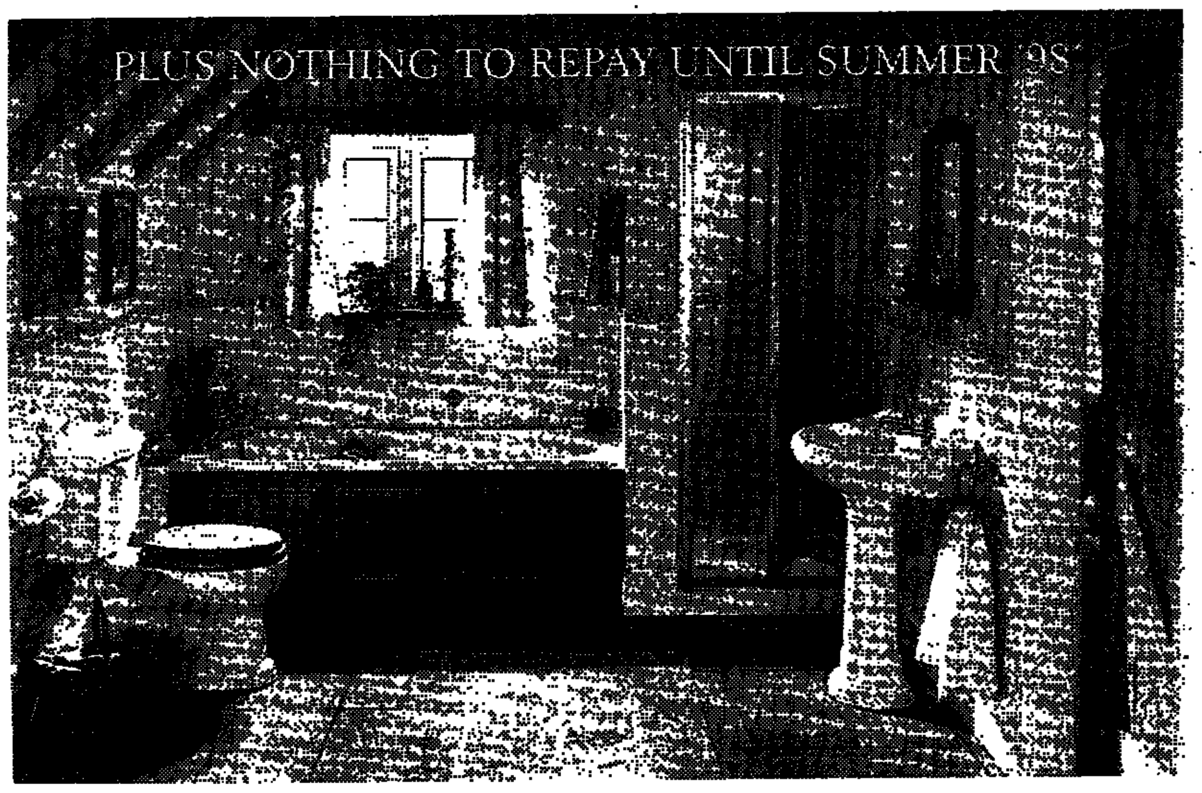

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SIMON WALKER

The Queen starting a life-sized action model at Radley College yesterday

Massage revitalises Queen's handshake

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen is taking seriously her new image of getting closer to her people, but rarely has contact gone to the length of peeling off her gloves and allowing a hand to be massaged with exotic oils. The experience appeared to give welcome relief from the constant round of flesh-pressing.

During a visit to Berinsfield, a large and isolated village in south Oxfordshire, she toured a community education centre. There she came across the perfumed and candlelit aromatherapy room. Six pairs of women were stroking each other's hands under the eye of their teacher, Claire Brown.

The Queen sniffed a jar of oil. Mrs Brown asked if she would like a massage. The Queen accepted with little hesitation. Which hand would she prefer? She gazed at her extremities for a moment and placed the right one on a cushion in her lap. "That's the hard one," she declared.

Mrs Brown had prepared a beady oil: rose for its aroma, mandarin to uplift body and spirit, and frankincense to calm anxiety. "I suppose your hand gets very tired with all that handshaking," Mrs Brown ventured, gently teasing the royal fingers. The Queen readily agreed.

Clearly relaxed, she put her gloves back on and resumed her round of handshaking with renewed vigour. Most of Berinsfield's 4,000 population were on the streets to greet the Queen, who had asked to see a less well-off part of the county. The village has more unemployment, crime and single mothers than usual for the relatively affluent Oxfordshire.

She ended the tour taking tea with pensioners in the church hall, where she undertook her 65th and final handshake of the day with untired vigour. The mandarin and frankincense had clearly done their work.

☐ The Queen's Christmas broadcast will be put on the Buckingham Palace Internet Web site: *www.royal.gov.uk*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ugandan Asians say thank you at Abbey

Hundreds of Ugandan Asians who fled to Britain to escape Idi Amin's regime gathered at Westminster Abbey yesterday for a service to commemorate the 25th anniversary of their arrival and to thank Britain for welcoming them. Nearly 30,000 refugees came to Britain when Amin ordered Uganda's entire Asian community to leave the country within 90 days in August 1972.

Photograph, page 26

Lawyer for foetus

A lawyer has been appointed to defend the right to life of the unborn baby of a 13-year-old alleged rape victim in Ireland. James O'Reilly, SC, was appointed by the Attorney-General. The girl wants to terminate the pregnancy.

Head suspended

The married head of one of Britain's largest special needs schools, the Percy Hedley School, in North Tyneside, has been suspended after an alleged affair with his deputy. Mike Vening and the deputy had already resigned.

CSA blunder

The Child Support Agency mistakenly sent a maintenance demand for £20,000 to a married man with three children. David Allen, 33, of Moston, Manchester, was told he owed money for two children with another woman.

Winston at work

A portrait of Sir Winston Churchill working on papers during the Second World War, and wearing the blue "siren suit" he designed for air raids, fetched £111,500 at Christie's in London. One of Churchill's landscapes made £150,000.

Hard lines

Two boys, aged 10 and 12, were ordered by a policeman to do 1,000 lines saying "I shall not steal again. I am very sorry" after stealing a camera, chocolates and a purse from Jeanette Hannington, 31, of Colchester, Essex.

Case dropped

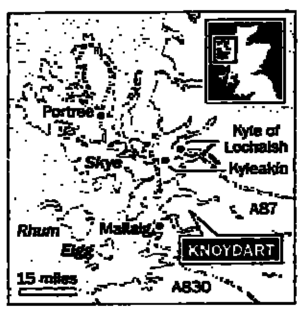
A case against PC Alan Bone, 43, a driving instructor with Surrey Police accused of driving at 124mph, was dropped after the prosecutor recognised him and arresting officers did not turn up for the trial by Aldershot magistrates.

Highlanders aim to buy estate

By Shirley English

THE 60 residents of Knoydart, a remote peninsula on the West Coast of Scotland, yesterday began a bid to buy the estate from its absentee private laird, announcing an appeal for £1 million.

The Knoydart Foundation, whose members include Highland Council and the local community, is taking up the torch lit in 1948 by seven returning servicemen. Angry at finding the homeland they had fought for neglected by the then owner, the 2nd Lord Brocket, who was a Nazi sympathiser, the men each staked claims to 65-acre crofts. Despite public support they were eventually defeated.



Yesterday, in Australia, a plea for donations was made to expatriate Scots by Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the producer, who owns a neighbouring estate. He pledged £100,000 to the appeal, as did the John Muir Trust and the Chris Brasher Trust.

The Scottish Office wished the bid success.

Safety move after Harding crash

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

HELICOPTER pilots will have to observe stricter regulations when flying in poor conditions as a result of the crash in which Matthew Harding, the vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club, and four other people died.

The crash was caused by pilot error, according to an Air Accident Investigation Branch report published yesterday. It concluded that Michael Goss, the pilot, had neither the qualifications nor the experience to control his aircraft after it got into difficulties.

The French Aerospatiale AS 355F1 Squirrel crashed in poor weather conditions on the way back from a Chelsea match at Bolton on October 22 last year.

The report said Mr Goss was not qualified to fly on instruments, became disorientated and overworked, and could not save the aircraft after it went into a steep nose-up position and then spiralled to the ground.

The Civil Aviation Authority has written to helicopter operators advising them that they should not fly below 1,000ft above the highest obstacle within 10 miles each side of the intended route. It also says stricter weather criteria should apply for night flying, so that pilots flying by visual means should operate only when forecasts indicate that low cloud will not affect visibility.

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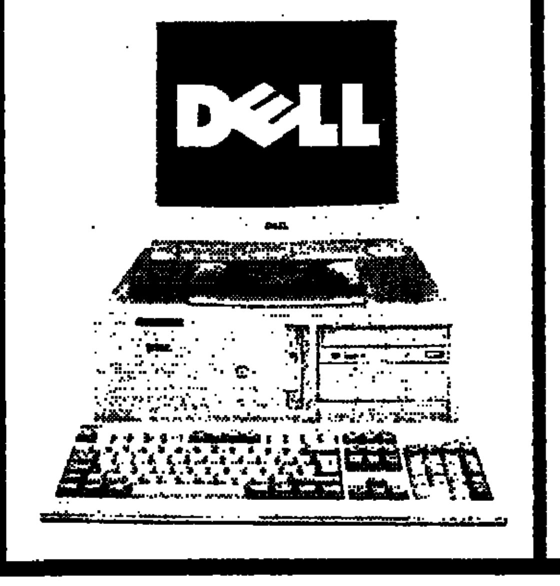

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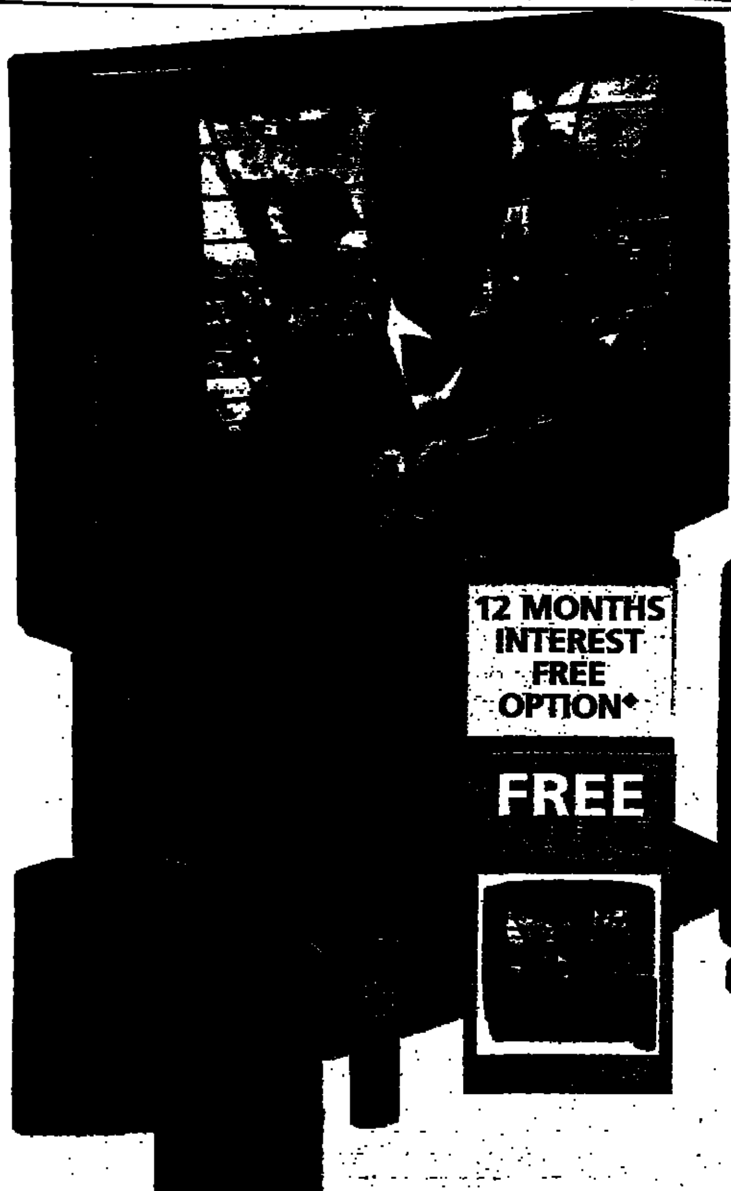

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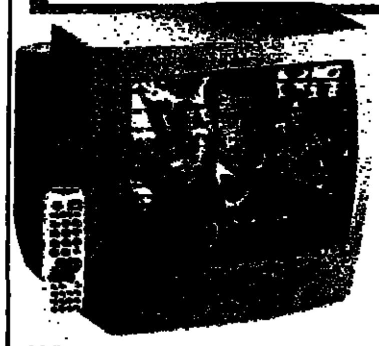

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Welsh assembly may spend years in makeshift home

Polly Newton on the failure to secure a deal for the use of Cardiff City Hall

THE new Welsh assembly may have to find a temporary home after the collapse of negotiations over the use of Cardiff City Hall, the Welsh Secretary said yesterday.

Ron Davies suggested that members and staff could find themselves without a permanent home for three or four years after the assembly is set up in May 1999.

The Government offered Cardiff City Council a maximum of £3.5 million to lease City Hall, which was the Welsh Secretary's first choice of location for the assembly. The council's ruling Labour group rejected the offer unanimously, despite the Government's protests that it would have to spend a further £30 million on renovating and refurbishing the building.

Although Mr Davies regretted that the City Hall would not house the Welsh assembly, he said: "It was the preferred option, but not the only option."

The alternatives will be set out in a consultation document to be published in the next ten days. In the short term, they include the old Mid Glamorgan county council hall in Cardiff and the Coal Exchange in Cardiff Bay, which was identified as a possible assembly headquarters in the run-up to the 1979 referendum on Welsh devolution. Both would have to be modified to accommodate the assembly while a long-term home was found — perhaps a new building in Cardiff.

Mr Davies said that he still favoured Cardiff because it was the Welsh capital, but there were other possibilities. Wherever the assembly is sited, it could be connected by video links with "satellite" offices in other cities and towns.

The Government of Wales Bill, which was published yesterday, sets aside £17 million for the establishment of the assembly. Mr Davies said he was confident that it would be enough.

He said that the Bill was a milestone for Wales. "In only 18 months, and for the first time ever, there will be an all-Wales elected government."

Decisions affecting Wales had for too long been taken behind closed doors. "The new national assembly will be modern, open and accountable." He said that neither Westminster nor local government would provide the model. The assembly would make a fresh start based on the best practices from around the world.

The leader of the assembly will be called the First Secretary. He or she will form an executive committee, or Cabinet, whose members — the leaders of various committees — will be known as Secretaries. Their salaries will be set by the Senior Salaries Review Body, which recommends pay rises for MPs and ministers at Westminster.

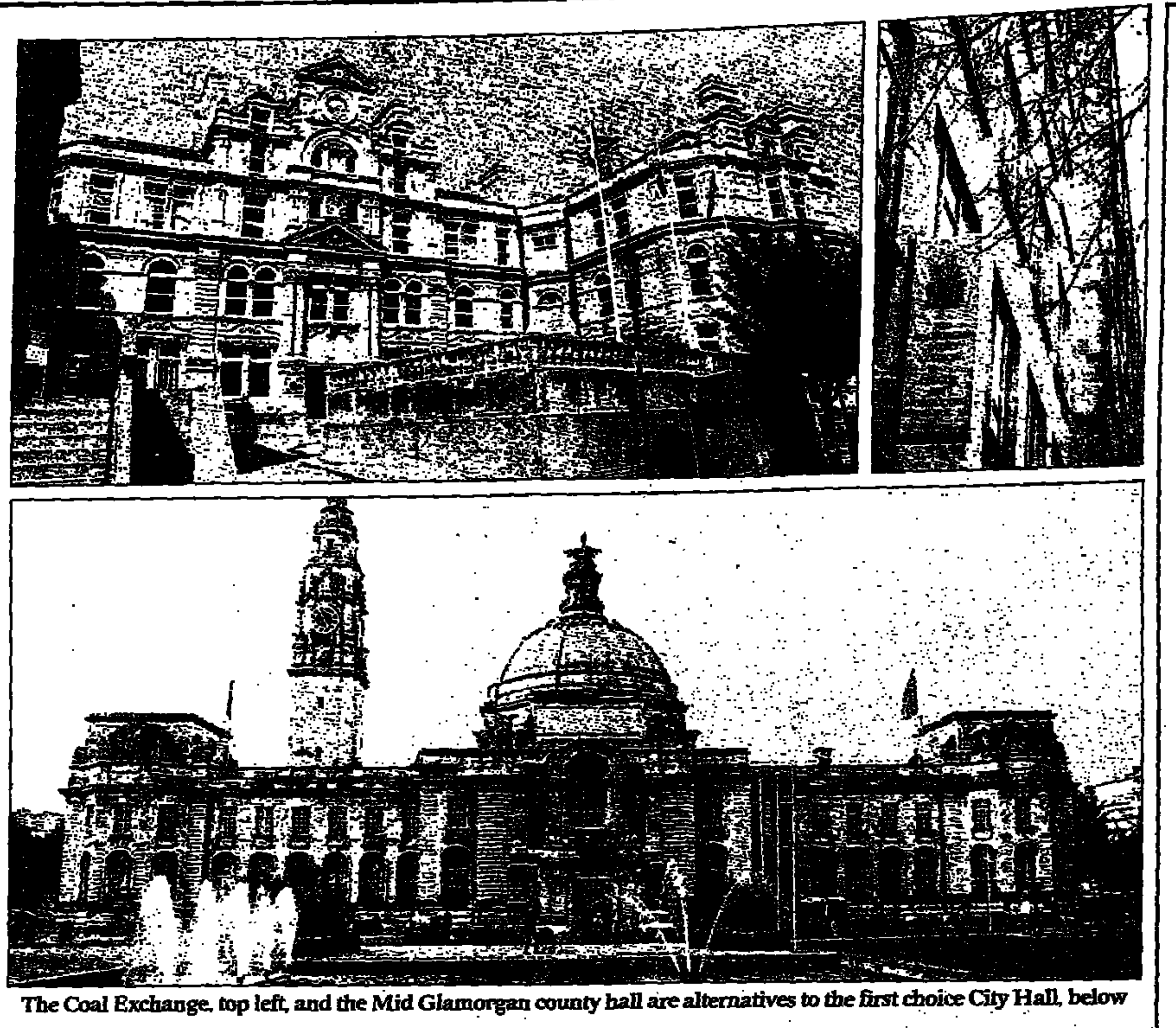
Mr Davies predicted that the assembly would sit for two or three days a week, and said that he expected all members to be paid for doing full-time jobs. Details of its daily operations, however, are be determined by a commission, subject to the agreement of national assembly members.

Over the next 18 months, the Government will try to persuade doubters that the assembly will benefit Wales. In the referendum in September, devolution was backed by a majority of just 6,721, or 0.6 per cent. Peter Hain, the junior Welsh Office Minister, will co-ordinate a campaign to win over those who voted against.

He said yesterday: "I predict that in ten years' time, you will not be able to identify anybody who would admit to voting 'no' in the referendum, because it will become such a hugely popular assembly."

The Government for Wales Bill is expected to have its second reading in the Commons in the week beginning December 8. Mr Davies risked the wrath of the Opposition by saying that it was unlikely to be debated in full on the floor of the House, despite the convention that all MPs are given the chance to scrutinise in detail any legislation with constitutional implications.

Mr Davies said it was "very important" that the key debates were taken on the floor of the House, but said that would depend on the Conservative Party. "If they are prepared to be co-operative with us I will ensure that the key issues are taken on the floor of the House," he said, but added: "There is a very strong case for much of the detail of the Bill to be taken in committee upstairs."



The Coal Exchange, top left, and the Mid Glamorgan county hall are alternatives to the first choice City Hall, below

Charges for river pollution planned

By Nick Nuttall

COMPANIES discharging poisonous wastes face higher charges under government-backed proposals announced yesterday to improve river quality.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said the health of the nation's rivers had improved markedly between 1990 and 1996. But there were still stretches in England and Wales where pollution made the water unsuitable for recreation or providing drinking supplies.

Under the proposals, factories that discharge into rivers will pay a sliding scale of charges intended to reflect the environmental impact of the wastes. The more toxic and hazardous the discharges, the higher the charge.

"Polluters then have a choice between paying that price or taking action to reduce their pollution. The economic instrument should provide an ongoing incentive for the development of new, more cost-effective, pollution control techniques," a report into the proposals said.

Sleaze claims fail to harm Labour

By Peter Riddell

THE Blair Government's "squeaky-clean" image has been unaffected by the row over the Bernie Ecclestone affair. The latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows that more than half the public believes that it has upheld high standards in public life since the election.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, included a number of questions about the public's attitude towards the Government. Hopes are still high; and, despite allegations about Labour "sleaze", the public thinks that the Government has upheld high standards in public life by almost a two-to-one margin.

Moreover, 58 per cent think that the Labour Government is doing about the same as they expected, while 20 per cent believe it is doing better than expected and 16 per cent worse. The middle classes are slightly more positive than the working classes.

There is a broadly even split over whether the Government has kept its promises, 45 per cent believing it has and 41 per cent has not.

Revealingly, the highest proportion, 24 per cent, saying that the Government has done better than expected come from Scotland, and the lowest, at 15 per cent, from Wales. Similarly, a much higher proportion in Scotland than Wales (55 to 48 per cent) believe that the Government has kept its promises. This undoubtedly reflects the contrasting attitudes on devolution.

Three quarters say their standard of living has stayed about the same since May, with just 7 per cent saying it has improved and 17 per cent got worse. Complaints about a decline in living standards are well above average, at 23 per cent, among those buying their homes on mortgages who have faced a series of interest rate increases since May. This is also reflected in the 22 per cent of 35 to 54-year-olds reporting worse living standards. By contrast, the figure is just 11 per cent among those who own their homes outright. Those aged between 35 and 54 and those buying homes on a mortgage are also less inclined to think that the Government has kept its promises.

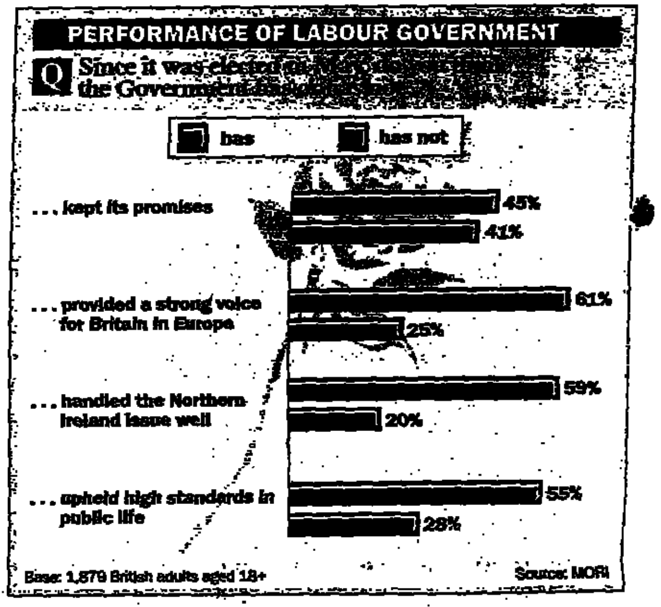
Nonetheless, 56 per cent agree that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy, with 27 per cent disagreeing. This is roughly the same balance as after Gordon Brown's first Budget in July.

The MORI economic optimism index, measuring the proportion believing that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, is still positive, at plus six points, roughly the same as at the end of October.

The unemployed are, not surprisingly, more likely than others to say their standard of living has got worse and that the Government has not kept its promises since the election. However, they remain optimistic about the future since an above average two thirds of them believe that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy.

Three fifths of the public, including two fifths of Tory supporters, believe the Government has provided a strong voice in Europe, with just 25 per cent disagreeing.

☐ *MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,879 adults at 170 sampling points across Britain from November 21 to 24.*



IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Wild Mammals (Hunting With Dogs) Bill, second reading; short debate on Southend Unitary Authority.

The House of Lords is not sitting.

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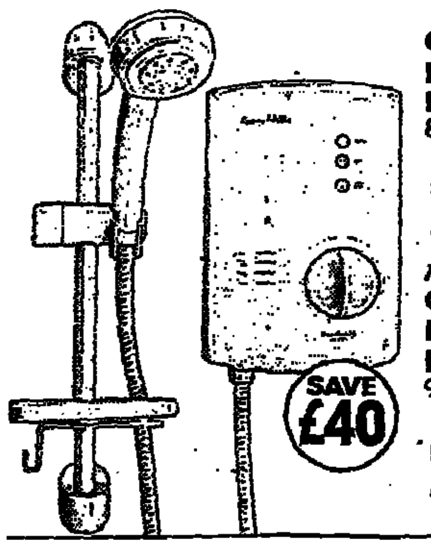

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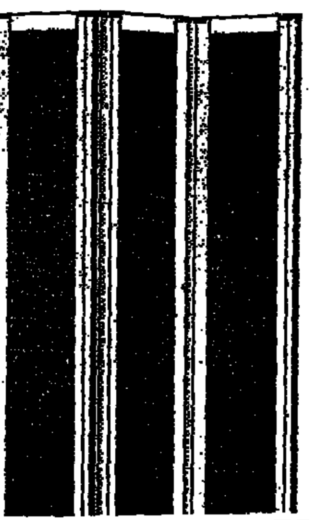

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Montserrat role 'must be taken off Short'

By Nicholas Watt, political correspondent

CLARE SHORT should be stripped of her responsibility for the island of Montserrat after the Government's "clumsy" response to the volcano crisis, a Commons report concluded yesterday.

The report, by the International Development Committee, said that the Foreign Office should clear up the "mismanagement and confusion" in the running of the island, a dependent territory, by taking control of its multimillion-pound budget.

One source on the committee said: "This report will set the dovecotes of Whitehall fluttering. They're going to resist this like hell. But there's nothing like an emergency to concentrate minds."

Ms Short, the International Development Secretary, infuriated the island's leaders at the height of the volcano crisis in August when she said that their financial demands were so unreasonable "they will be wanting golden elephants next". The report criticised Ms Short for her remarks but said it welcomed her retraction when she appeared before the committee last month.

Short: infuriated the island's leaders

The cross-party committee did not blame Ms Short for the "failures and mistakes" in the Government's response to the volcano, which erupted in June, killing 19 people. Instead it said that there were "too many decision-makers" in the process, including Ms Short's department, which is responsible for the distribution of aid, the Foreign Office, which has overall responsibility for the island, and the Government and Governor of Montserrat.

Bowen Wells, the Tory chairman of the committee, said: "The committee was very shaken by the conditions in which the people of Montserrat were forced to live. We found that there are a whole variety of authorities responsible for this condition. The responsibility in British terms lies with the Foreign Office. But the International Development Department cannot escape the blame for some of the chaotic decision-making processes on Montserrat, nor can the elected Government of Montserrat or the Governor. In fact the managerial relationships in Whitehall were very clumsy indeed."

Although the committee stopped short of blaming Ms Short, it concluded that her department should no longer have any role in Montserrat. Mr Wells said that aid should come from the Treasury's contingency reserve fund, while the Foreign Office should take charge of the island. He insisted that the report's recommendations was not a reflection on the work of Ms Short's department, but simply a recognition that there should be "clearly delineated responsibilities".

He added: "This is a radical report, one born of the tragedy that the volcano is visiting on Montserrat. It illustrates the total inadeqaucy of the present British arrangements for the administration of the dependent territories."

Mr Wells made clear that Ms Short was not the only minister who should be criticised. He attacked Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the Foreign Office Minister, for failing to keep her promise to the committee to sort out the problems Montserratians experienced at immigration controls on arrival in Britain.

His criticisms, which were also directed at the previous Government, were shared by Labour members of the committee. Ann Clwyd, MP for Cynon Valley, said: "It makes me quite ashamed. These are citizens of a British Dependent Territory who should be given the best treatment."

Ms Short welcomed the report, saying: "Clearly, things needed to improve. The system we inherited from the Overseas Development Administration has now been streamlined. The report points a clear way forward."

Whitehall to beat 'millennium bomb'

By James Landale, political reporter

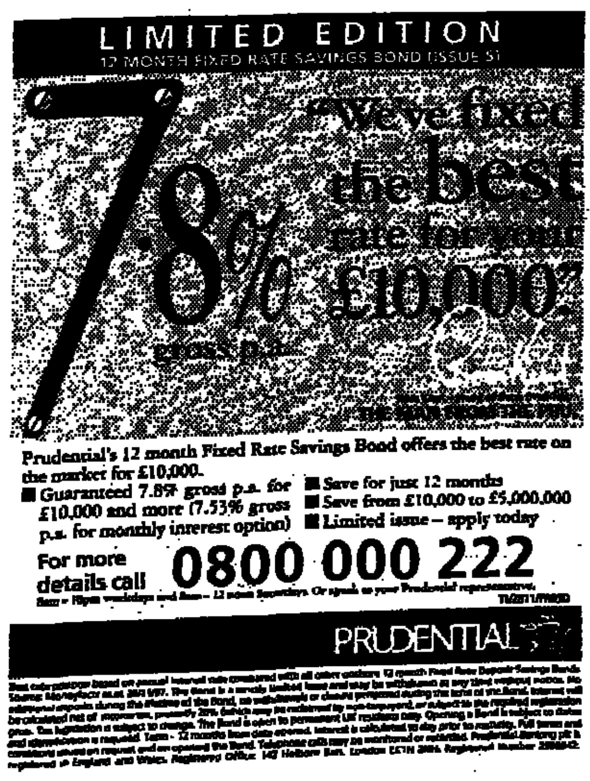
GOVERNMENT departments are likely to beat the "millennium timebomb" that threatens to cause computer chaos at the turn of the century, it was announced yesterday.

David Clark, the Public Services Minister, said that Whitehall departments and agencies were on course with a scheme to make all their computer equipment "millennium compliant". But it does not cover hospitals, health trusts, local authorities or operational military equipment, for which there are separate arrangements.

Most computers store year dates in a two-digit number. Unless they are adapted, many computers will reach 2000, believe that time has travelled back a century to 1900, and shut down in confusion. The danger extends beyond the kind of computer used in offices. Any equipment with time-sensitive chips will be affected, such as timelock safes, automated hospital drips, refrigerators and telephone systems.

Mr Clark told MPs in a statement that £370 million was being spent on the Whitehall scheme. Each department would have to present Parliament with quarterly progress reports, and random tests would be carried out on computers thought to be compliant. "The timetable is tight and there is little margin for error," he said.

He estimated that £1 billion would have to be spent to make the whole public sector safe.



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Montserrat: an eruption of the island's volcano in June killed 19 people

On-the-record move is in the right direction

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Blairisation of Whitehall took a further important step forward yesterday. The prosaically entitled *Report of the Working Group on the Government Information Service* is as revealing a document about how the Blair administration works as has so far appeared — confirming the key roles of Peter Mandelson and Alastair Campbell. Students of the "hidden wiring" will learn of the daily meetings chaired by the former bringing together "key players".

It is easy to get over-excited about charges of politicisation and the role of Labour spin-doctors. The true story is less melodramatic and more complicated. Yesterday's report from a mixed Civil Service-political group clears the air and is largely welcome.

First, the proposal to conduct the twice-daily briefings by the Prime Minister's Chief Press Secretary on the assumption that they are on-the-record is sensible and long overdue. There has been a gradual shift to greater openness and more direct attribution over the past decade as part of a greater transparency in government and a more open style among a new generation of political journalists.

As Mr Mandelson argued in his speech to the Parliamentary Press Gallery on Wednesday, it will be clearer who is speaking on behalf of whom. "Of course, there will not be an end to anonymous sources, but at least authorised ones will clearly be so." The usual suspects will still be chatting away, if no longer perhaps from the Red Lion. These informal, unattributable contacts are inherent in journalists' relations with politicians. But the change, while having a limited practical impact, is a gain for honesty and clarity.

Secondly, the proposals to streamline the Government Information Service are largely justified. During the summer, misunderstandings, and worse, developed between new ministers and their advisers and the GIS, leading to a wave of early retirements and, in some cases, forced departures of heads of information. Faults existed on both sides: ministers were right to feel that the GIS needed a shake-up but some were criticising press officers for failing to perform essentially political roles. A new concordat between the two was needed, as well as an updating of information practices. Yesterday's proposals are intended to bring Whitehall press officers in the world of 24-hour media and instant response with a new media monitoring unit following the successful Labour operation. It is also sensible to develop closer relations between policy civil servants and press offices. Guidelines have been set out on what it is appropriate for press officers to do, but I am still not sure that all ministers fully realise the distinction between the interests of the Government and of the Labour Party. The job of civil servants is to make the Government successful, not to re-elect Labour.

Thirdly, the most striking feature of the report is the proposed closer co-ordination of information at the centre — for a new electronic information system and Strategic Communications Unit combining civil servants and special advisers to co-ordinate, rather than to "spin". Its job will be to implement, not to make policy. This unit would be six strong but that is quite an addition to a current total of about 30 civil servants and advisers in No 10.

The official emphasis is on co-ordination, but the consistent theme is centralisation, a desire to strengthen the ability of the Prime Minister's Office, not just to present a coherent message but also to influence the development of policy throughout Whitehall. Much of this is desirable. Political scientists have for long debated the "hole" at the centre of British government. But yesterday's changes will need watching as part of a more general attempt to strengthen the levers of power in Downing Street.

PETER RIDDELL

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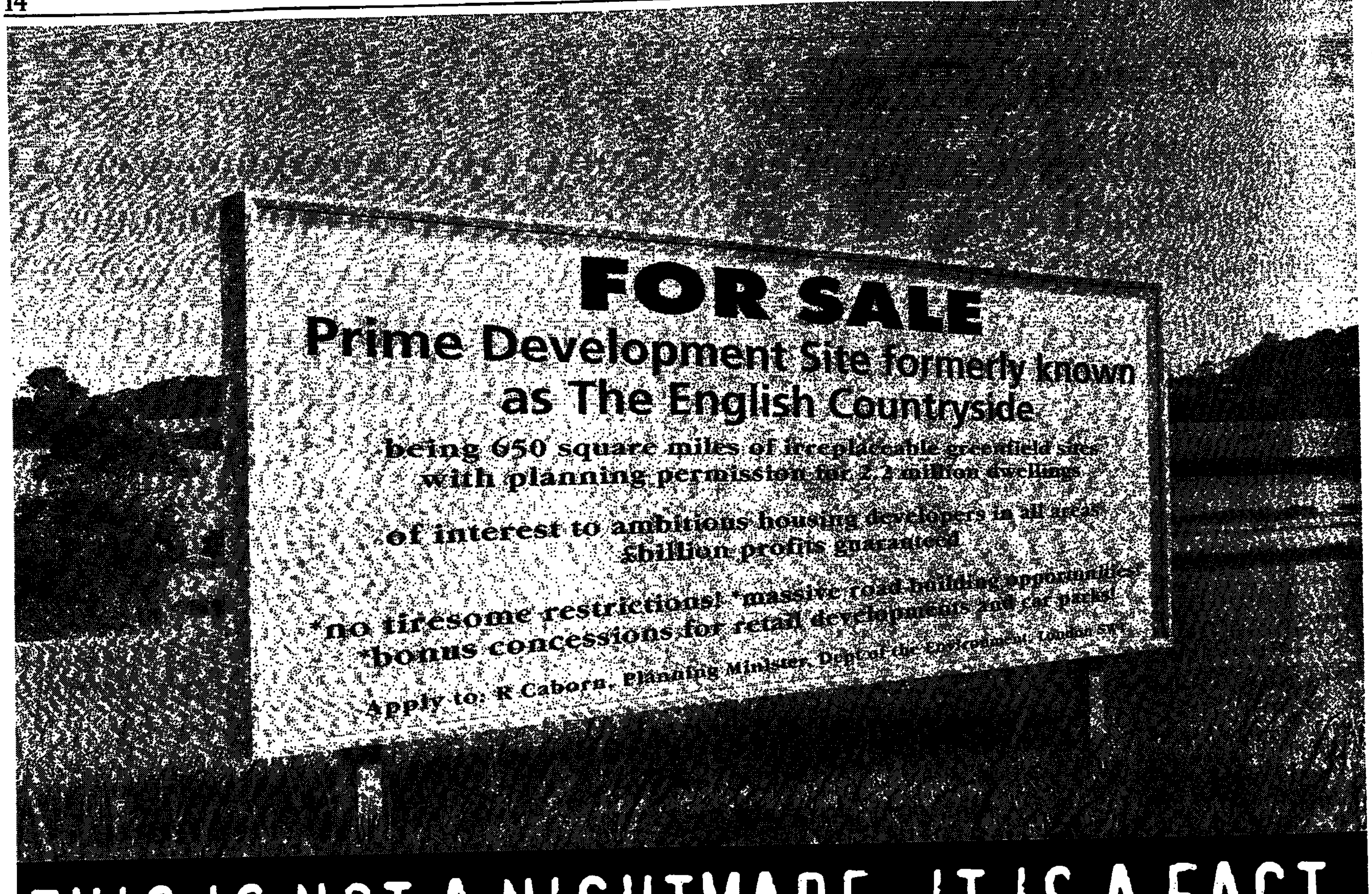
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East Sussex	35,000	Staffordshire	66,000
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Greater Manchester	94,000	Tyne & Wear	35,700
Hampshire	92,000	Warwickshire	37,000
Hereford & Worcs	56,000	West Midlands	100,700
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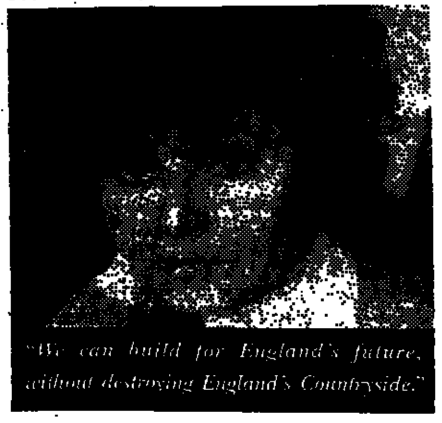
Prunella Scales, President, CPRE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Likud politician calls for Palestinian state

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A LEADING member of Binyamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud party yesterday backed the creation of a limited Palestinian state in a new challenge to the policy of the embattled right-wing Israeli Prime Minister.

The move, by Meir Sheetrit, Likud's chief whip, came as Mr Netanyahu faced criticism from all sides over his handling of the faltering peace process and was threatened with a right-wing Knesset revolt to topple his coalition.

Yesterday, crude posters depicting him in an Arab *keffiyeh* headdress under the slogan "The Liar" were distributed in Jerusalem by extreme right-wing Jews furious that he plans to hand back more West Bank land to Palestinians.

Underlining the severity of his dilemma, the *Yediot Aharonot* daily reported him as saying: "The Americans are treating me like Saddam Hussein," because of repeated snubs by President Clinton, who blames him for being too uncompromising with the Arabs.

Mr Sheetrit, in remarks that led to calls for his resignation, said: "I think that it is possible to achieve peace with the Palestinians. I am not afraid of them and I am not afraid of a Palestinian state. The most important thing is to initiate the establishment of a Palestinian state while we are in power."

> ❛ I think that it is possible to achieve peace with the Palestinians. I am not afraid of a Palestinian state ❜

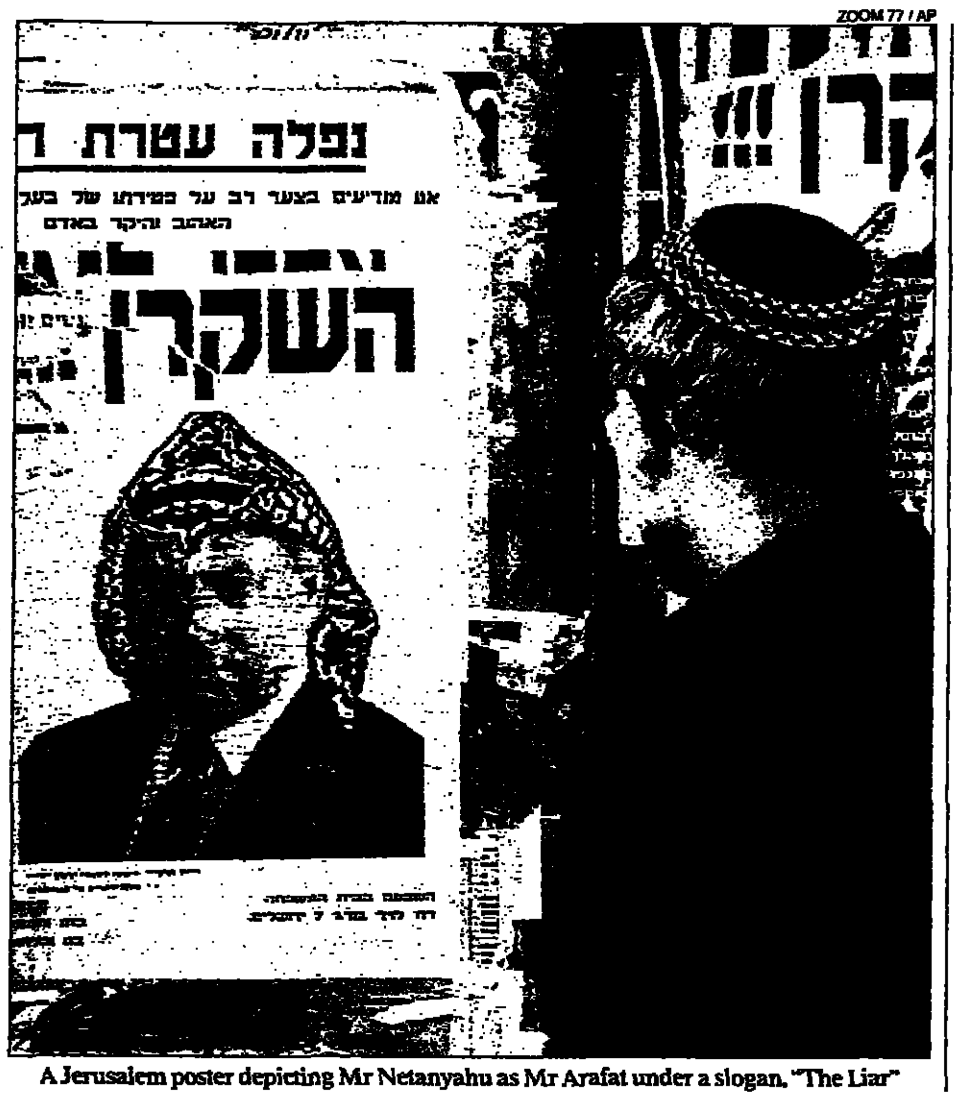
He added: "If we are the ones to initiate a Palestinian state, we can do it under the best possible conditions for Israel. If we do nothing, at the end of the process, a Palestinian state will be created under the worst possible conditions."

His surprise conversion came only days after Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, announced that in May 1999, at the end of the period laid down for negotiations under the Oslo peace accord, he will unilaterally declare a state and call for world recognition. "If we initiate an arrangement, a final arrangement, we can arrive at the best arrangement for the state of Israel," said Mr Sheetrit, 39, who argued that a left-wing government would cede more land. Under his proposal, Jerusalem would remain under Israeli sovereignty, the Jordan River would remain Israel's border and Israel would annex most of the 144 Jewish settlements.

The "Liar" posters were ominously reminiscent of the right-wing hate campaign that preceded the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Prime Minister, in November 1996. Mr Rabin was shot by a right-wing Jew who claimed religious justification for murdering him to prevent the West Bank being handed to the Palestinians under terms of the 1993 peace deal signed in Washington.

Yesterday's posters were signed in the name of a far-right movement known in Hebrew as Hazit Haraayon, the "Idea Front". Last night Israel radio reported that police had arrested Noam Federman, a prominent right-wing Jewish activist, and an unnamed minor on suspicion of putting up the posters.

Questioned in a CNN television interview about Mr Clinton's apparent refusal to meet him, Mr Netanyahu said: "It is unbecoming, it does not befit nations who are allies, and even does not befit nations who are not allies."



ZOOM 77 / AP

A Jerusalem poster depicting Mr Netanyahu as Mr Arafat under a slogan, "The Liar"

Russian captain accused of treason

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE Russian counter-intelligence service said yesterday that a naval captain who revealed how nuclear waste was dumped at sea by the Russian Navy had been charged with treason.

General Viktor Kondratov, the head of the Federal Security Service in Vladivostok, said that Captain Grigori Pasko would be tried for one of Russia's most serious offences, which carries a sentence of life imprisonment. The naval officer was arrested on Sunday after returning from a trip to Japan. Before he left Vladivostok, customs officials confiscated documents in his possession about Russia's Pacific Fleet.

Although the authorities insist the matter is a straightforward case of espionage, Oleg Kotlyarov, the captain's lawyer, said his client had been warned repeatedly to drop his private investigations into environmental issues. He wrote articles condemning dumping at sea.

Swiss prepared to defend war policy at Nazi gold debate

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND PETER CAPELLA

SWITZERLAND has prepared a robust defence of its wartime record to forestall any attempt to pillory its dealings with Nazi Germany at next week's conference in London on Nazi gold.

Thomas Borer, a diplomat heading the task force on Swiss banking and financial affairs during the war, will tell delegates from the 42 countries attending the Lancaster House meeting that Switzerland had to buy gold from Germany because in 1941 the allies had frozen the bulk of the Swiss National Bank's reserves deposited in America for security before the war.

He argues that only gold obtained from Germany was freely tradeable, and was needed for vital transactions. All imports from Romania, Hungary, Portual and Turkey had to be paid for in gold.

Mr Borer refutes the common view that the Swiss National Bank traded mainly with Germany. It bought SwFr1.2 billion of German gold, but far more from the allies, and during the war dealt with the central banks of 16 countries.

His delegation will be one of about 30 countries presenting historical papers at the two-day conference. British officials have given a warning that if delegates start trading accusations, the attempt to unearth new archives could be frustrated.

Britain, France and America, which still hold 5.5 tonnes of gold not yet distributed by the Tripartite Gold Commission, want the ten claimant countries to endorse their proposal to turn it over to a fund for victims of the Nazis.

In Switzerland, relatives of Holocaust survivors have alleged that Britain applied laws on confiscated enemy property in a selective manner. They say that the assets of Eastern European nobility were returned while claims from survivors were rejected.

The families of Peter Csango, John Leopold and Reuven Tal have tried for decades to recover money that was left with banks in London by their Hungarian and Romanian Jewish relatives before the war.

Mr Leopold said that, in contrast, documents in the Public Record Office show that Britain found ways to return the assets of some of Eastern Europe's richest and influential families, for example former King Carol II of Romania.

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هكذا من الاصل

Czechs lectured by Cook on gypsy 'asylum'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PRAGUE

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, used a visit to Prague yesterday to hammer home warnings to Central Europe's gypsies to desist from seeking asylum in Britain and to the Czech Government to improve the lot of its 300,000 Romany population.

Mr Cook made three strong and almost identically worded statements on the autumn's rush of gypsies to Dover after meetings with President Havel and the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. "It is very important that Britain gets across the message that it is not a soft touch for anyone claiming asylum falsely," he said. "I give a very clear message to those who are contemplating travelling to Britain that Britain does not have an open door policy to those who may allege persecution and cannot then prove it."

Czech society needed to address the question of "why so many of its people saw no future for themselves within the Czech Lands", he added. Mr Cook acknowledged that "the flood appears to have dried up". Only six new arrivals had been reported this month.

The Foreign Secretary's open criticism jarred with the message of goodwill that he brought to Prague from a Britain that, he said, "is firmly committed to throwing open the doors of the European Union to the new democracies in the East". Once inside the EU, the Czech people will be able to move freely throughout it, he said.

Prague has announced a string of measures to give full citizenship and more secure lives to gypsies, and it has offered to pay about £18,000 to bring home those in Britain.

AP

James Earl Ray, who could die within six months of liver failure, confessed to killing Martin Luther King in 1968, but then changed his story

James Earl Ray must pay $250,000 to stay alive

Martin Luther King's killer is pleading for a liver transplant, reports **Tunku Varadarajan**

JAMES EARL RAY, the man convicted of killing Martin Luther King Jr, the black civil rights leader, needs at least $250,000 (£147,000) to pay for a life-saving liver transplant.

Doctors say that Ray, 69, who suffers from cirrhosis of the liver caused by a chronic hepatitis C infection he contracted in prison, could die within six months if he does not receive the transplant. So far, he has been unable to raise any money.

The $250,000 would secure a place on a waiting list for transplants at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre. He is serving a 99-year sentence at a jail in Nashville, Tennessee, but the state's medical insurance scheme makes no provision for transplants. No exception is made even for prisoners who contract infectious diseases in prison. Since he is not insured for the operation he needs, the hospital has demanded that Ray post the sum as a bond: without that, it will not consider him for an operation.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the hospital said: "Mr Ray cannot be placed on the national waiting list until certain financial obligations are met. Since the Tennessee Department of Corrections will not pay for Mr Ray's transplant, he will be required to pay a deposit before he can be listed for transplantation, as do other patients with no insurance cover or medical assistance."

The hospital statement went on to say that Ray could not expect to be treated differently merely because he was a prisoner in poor health: "It is the philosophy of the hospital that all patients be treated equally and fairly, and that their candidacy for transplantation be judged on medical criteria alone."

The hospital did not address the point, raised by Ray's lawyers, that the patient — an imprisoned man — did not have the same opportunities to raise insurance money as might a transplant candidate at liberty. In America, medical insurance is usually tied to an employment contract: Ray, as a prison inmate, could not secure such a contract.

The money required as deposit is not the only obstacle in the path of Ray's transplant. In order to travel to Pittsburgh, he must first secure a "medical furlough" from the prison authorities in Nashville. He has already been rejected once this year when he sought permission to go to Pittsburgh for medical tests.

Ray's latest application for leave of absence must be approved by a daunting number of officials, including the Memphis district attorney, the prison doctors and, finally, the state prisons commissioner. Pam Hoggins, a spokeswoman for the Department of Corrections, said that medical furloughs were rarely approved. "A candidate has to be near death," she said.

The Rev James Lawson, a Methodist minister who was with King at the time of his assassination, is now attempting to raise money for Ray's transplant. Yesterday, he revealed that he had raised scarcely a cent. The King family, which has not contributed money, nonetheless supports Ray's "right" to an operation.

Ray, who confessed to murdering King in Memphis in 1968, recanted just two weeks after his conviction. Ever since, he has fought doggedly for a new trial. Recently, he secured the support of King's own son.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Egypt issues list of 'terrorists abroad'

Cairo: Egypt has listed 14 people, including two living in London, whom it accuses of masterminding violent acts from abroad. In a booklet, *Call to Combat Terrorism*, the Government of President Mubarak says that the alleged militants are "currently enjoying secure and convenient asylum in some world capitals", and urges the international community to deny them safe haven.

The two said to be in London are Yassir Tawfiq Ali el-Serri, 35, under sentence of death in Egypt for the attempted assassination of Atef Sedki, the former Prime Minister, and Adel Abdel-Meguid Abdel-Bari, 37, who is also sentenced to death for trying to blow up a Cairo bazaar. *(Reuters)*

Leakey party to fight poll

Nairobi: Safina, the Kenyan opposition party founded by Richard Leakey, the conservationist and palaeontologist, announced that it will contest the general election next month (David Orr writes). However, Dr Leakey will not stand in either the presidential or the parliamentary poll. Paul Muite, a Safina leader, said: "We will participate but we will do so under protest because we believe the election cannot be free and fair." Safina says the minimum conditions for free elections are comprehensive constitutional reforms and an independent electoral commission.

Bushfires hit Australia

Sydney: More than 200 bushfires were burning on Australia's eastern seaboard and emergency services feared more would flare as lightning storms lit drought-hit scrubland. Firefighters used helicopters to drop water on one big fire in the Blue Mountains, 30 miles west of Sydney, as temperatures in some areas of New South Wales and Victoria states reached 40C (104F). Emergency powers were invoked in five mostly rural areas. *(Reuters)*

Japanese broker's suicide

Osaka: An employee of a company linked to Yamaichi Securities, the failed Japanese broker, killed himself by jumping from a building in Osaka's financial district. Police said Seiichi Tanigashira, 40, a deputy section chief at Taiheiyo Securities, jumped from the roof of a seven-floor building near Taiheiyo's office. No suicide note has been found. Yamaichi owns 40 per cent of Taiheiyo. *(Reuters)*

Mexico seizes immigrants

Mexico City: Police in the central Mexican state of Puebla found 75 illegal immigrants, mostly from Central America, who had been hidden inside an empty petrol tanker heading for the US border for four days without food or water. Most of the migrants, who included Chinese nationals, were treated for severe dehydration. *(Reuters)*

'Seducer' on trial in Iran

Tehran: A foreigner in Iran is to stand trial for allegedly seducing around 40 young women, a newspaper reported. The suspect, whose identity and nationality were not disclosed, presented himself as a diplomat and "collaborated" with staff at an unnamed Western embassy, it said. *(AFP)*

Academics pick over white trash

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

A NEW discipline, White Studies, is being introduced at American universities, taking its place alongside such areas as Black Studies, Women's Studies and Gay Theory.

The new field, establishing itself in departments of anthropology, sociology and history, focuses on such esoteric areas as the history of "blackface", the "deconstruction of white trash" and the psychology of white militias.

In an intriguing essay devoted to the phenomenon, to be published on Sunday in *The New York Times Magazine*, Margaret Talbot suggests that the aim of the course is to give whites "the same kind of critical ... scrutiny that self-defined marginalised groups have long trained on themselves".

The new discipline is gaining ground in such institutions as Macalester College in St Paul, Duke University, Northwestern University in Chicago, and even at Berkeley. In the past year, "whiteness" scholars have published such texts as *Critical White Studies*, a textbook; *Displacing Whiteness*, a psychoanalytical study of white identity; *How the Irish Became White*, examining the labour competition between Irish immigrants and freed black slaves; and *Making Whiteness*, a study of how whites in the South "remade" the idea of racial superiority after the Civil War.

The tenor of this scholarship, and of White Studies in general, is far from triumphalist or racist. On the contrary, it is being sold by its practitioners as an audacious attempt to resolve America's racial conflicts. According to Ms Talbot, "the whole enterprise gives whites a kind of standing in the multicultural paradigm they have never before enjoyed".

The aim of many of the proponents of White Sudies is to dislodge the well-established view in America that whites are "the norm", and that they transcend the identity debate which rages in America. According to Annalee Newitz, a Berkeley scholar who co-edited *White Trash* (an anthology of studies of "po' white folk"), "whites are said to consider themselves a neutral universal category, hence non-racial and superior to 'racialised' others ... their self-image as whites is thus both underdeveloped and yet extremely presumptuous".

Mugabe's seizure of farms gets under way

FROM JAN RAATH
IN HARARE

THE Zimbabwean Government is today due to take the first steps towards mass expropriation of more than 12 million hectares of white-owned farmland as the controversy takes on increasingly racial tones.

A proclamation is due to be issued, naming up to 1,800 farms for "compulsory acquisition" for redistribution among blacks, a process which President Mugabe has said must be completed by the end of the year.

He has also ordered the government printer to ensure that the list of farms is issued on time, to enable him to present it as a fait accompli at the annual conference of his Zanu (PF) party next week.

A meeting on Wednesday between Mr Mugabe and Nick Swanepoel, president of the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU), most of whose 4,500 members are whites, failed to achieve any concessions. Mr Mugabe wants to return to blacks the land "stolen" by successive British and Rhodesian administrations after the settlement of the country a century ago.

The CFU has been given a list of the farms, but the 4,500 members have been warned not to make it public until it has been formally gazetted.

☐ **Veterans' tax:** The Government presented plans to parliament in Harare for a new tax to pay back impoverished veterans of the independence war. The Bill is expected to be rushed through. *(AFP)*

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هكذا من الأصل

India mobilises for all-out war against polio

Christopher Thomas reports on the biggest immunisation plan in history

INDIA is mobilising its armed forces, two million health workers and millions of youth volunteers in a spectacular push against poliomyelitis. It will be the single biggest immunisation programme in history, reaching at least 125 million children.

The decline in polio in the sub-continent over the past few years has been stunning: in Sri Lanka, it may already have been beaten. Pakistan and India should be largely clear of the virus in three years, when it is hoped that polio will have been all but wiped out worldwide. It will thereafter join smallpox as a defeated disease.

A country without a single polio case for three years is entitled to be declared free of the disease, and India hopes to be certificated as polio-free by the World Health Organisation (WHO) by 2005. On one day next month, and again in January for the requisite second dose, volunteers will administer vaccines to at least 97 per cent of children under the age of five.

The logistics are staggering. Vaccines will be delivered to 650,000 booths, located so that most people will be within walking distance of one. The army and paramilitary forces will provide transport. Two million health workers have been hired by the Government and the WHO.

Rotary International, a significant force behind the worldwide campaign against polio, has donated £3.25 million for vaccines and publicity material for the drive.

Before the campaign started two years ago — later than most other parts of the world — India had 60 per cent of the globe's polio cases. The figure is now half that.

This will be the third and biggest operation of its kind in the past two years, proving to sceptics that Indian anarchy can give way to efficiency. Britain, Japan, Denmark and the United Nations are contributing £35 million. The operation will be repeated next year and, if necessary, for up to two more years after that to ensure eradication.

Many new-born children missed the last two immunisation drives because mothers were unable to get them to booths. This time there will be more mobile booths, as well as house-to-house visits to areas where polio has been reported.

The West is free of polio and it has been virtually eradicated in China, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Africa remains a problem area. In India, it is down 78 per cent from two years ago.

The mass immunisation will involve the distribution of 380 million doses of oral vaccine, all of which must be kept cool. Teachers and schoolchildren, and millions of members of the Nehru Youth Organisation, which is one of the world's biggest grassroots bodies, will join Scouts, Guides and cadets in spreading the word.

Around the world it is estimated that 10-20 million people live with polio paralysis. The number of reported cases so far this year in India is around 700, although many cases go unreported.

☐ **Afghan blight:** Despite a vaccination programme, polio cripples more Afghans than landmines, according to Belgian researchers. *(Reuters)*

A face begins to emerge from fragments of the damaged Assisi frescoes

Stricken basilica in Assisi to reopen

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ASSISI

NINE weeks after the earthquake that destroyed irreplaceable works of art in Assisi, part of the great Basilica of St Francis is to reopen this weekend.

Father Nicola Giandomenico, the bursar and the friars' spokesman, said the badly damaged Upper Church would stay closed for repairs, but the Lower Church would open its doors to the public. He also announced that state television would broadcast a Christmas Eve concert from Assisi, conducted by Claudio Abbado, as an "act of faith in the basilica's future", followed by Midnight Mass celebrated by the Pope in St Peter's, Rome.

The reopening comes amid an increasingly heated debate over the fate of badly damaged medieval and Renaissance frescoes. Antonio Paolucci, the former Culture Minister in overall charge of the restoration, caused a furore by suggesting that the frescoes should be recreated or reconstructed by restorers using modern materials to "fill in the gaps" between recovered fragments.

Signor Paolucci said the frescoes by Cimabue, Giotto and other 13th-century masters in the Lower Church were "relatively intact, though dusty", and the building had been reinforced to make it structurally sound and safe for visitors. In the Upper Church, however, jagged holes still gape in the great vaulted ceiling where the majestic figures of Cimabue's *The Acts of the Apostles* and Giotto's *The Doctors of the Church* once gazed down at visitors. Eighty square yards of damaged frescoes have been swept up, forming what *La Repubblica* called "the biggest jigsaw puzzle in history".

Some faces are beginning to emerge from the rubble at the hands of Paola Passalacqua, the chief technical restorer, starting with St Rufino, the 3rd-century bishop of Assisi. He is one of 16 figures — including St Francis and St Clare — that before the collapse decorated the soaring painted arch which adjoined and supported the *Doctors of the Church* frescoes. Like the *Doctors*, the figures on the arch are attributed to the young Giotto.

However, veteran experts such as Leonetto Tintori, who restored frescoes damaged by Allied bombs in Pisa and Prato after the Second World War, argue passionately that it is a tragic mistake to paint in missing sections since "respect for the work of the original artist" must be the guiding principle.

Signor Paolucci insists that the frescoes at Assisi were designed as "a harmonious artistic whole", and to leave "lots of white gaps" would "offend the eye. They would stick out like a sore thumb."

Army mediates in Pakistan crisis

FROM ZAHID HUSSEIN IN ISLAMABAD

THE Pakistani Army, which has ruled the country for half its existence, now finds itself in a difficult role of mediator in a confrontation between the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice.

With the country drifting towards anarchy, the reluctant generals may be forced to act in an effort to salvage the country's faltering democracy.

General Jahangir Karamat, the Chief of Staff, who cut short an official visit to Britain last week, met the warring political leaders but failed to break the stalemate that has paralysed the country for the past eight weeks.

The situation took an ugly turn yesterday when members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League heckled Sajjad Eli Shah, the Chief Justice, during a court hearing, demanding that he step down. Hundreds of others demonstrated their opposition to the Chief Justice, who arrived at the court under military escort.

Mr Chief Justice Shah is locked in a constitutional battle with Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister. The conflict flared last month over the appointment of Supreme Court judges. The stand-off intensified when the Chief Justice summoned Mr Sharif and charged him with contempt of court. The Chief Justice has also struck out several laws passed by parliament.

The confrontation between the executive and the judiciary has also involved President Leghari and the army. Mr Sharif has threatened to impeach the President for supporting the Chief Justice. There is also a move to revive the Council of Defence and National Security to enshrine the army's political role.

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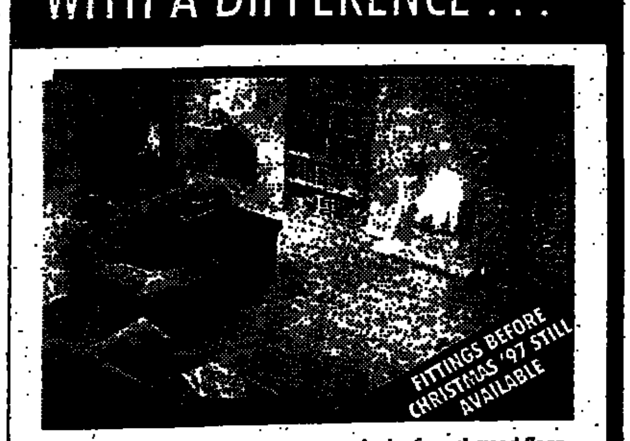

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OPENS SATURDAY IN CANTERBURY

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DENIS FARRELL / AP

Winnie Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a break in evidence yesterday

ANC witnesses quail in face of Mrs Mandela

Sam Kiley sees veterans admit that they did not dare stand up for abducted youths

LEADING members of the African National Congress feared Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and her bodyguards and failed to end her reign of terror in Soweto, Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission heard yesterday.

Senior ANC officials who testified yesterday said they had struggled for weeks to secure the release of four township youths allegedly abducted and tortured by Mrs Mandela and her "Mandela United Football Club" bodyguard in 1988 and 1989. However, none was willing to say she held them against their will.

They also declined to explain why they did not ask to see the youths, whom Soweto residents and Bishop Peter Storey, then head of the *Methodist Church in Johannesburg*, believed were being tortured.

The ANC veterans were members of a group known as the Mandela Crisis Committee, set up to try to restrain the football club. They told the commission that they had tried cautiously to investigate reports that Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a teenage activist, had been assaulted and possibly killed at Mrs Mandela's home. They visited her to plead for the release of *Stompie and other activists.*

The ANC leaders testified that they were frustrated by her behaviour, and produced documents sent to Oliver Tambo, then president of *the party*, and to Nelson Mandela, which said she should be isolated and the football club disbanded.

But faced with Mrs Mandela herself, in a white and black spotted suit and designer sunglasses, their criticism turned to mumbles and evasions.

Bishop Storey said that while the cancer of South Africa had been apartheid, it had resulted in "secondary infections which eroded some people's sense of right and wrong". *He suggested that the* Mandela Crisis Committee was as much concerned with "damage control" as it was with ensuring the release of the abducted youths.

Mrs Mandela, who is seeking the deputy presidency of the ANC at next month's conference, faces accusations of up to 13 murders and numerous human rights abuses during the time when President Mandela was still a prisoner.

Frank Chikane, former leader of the South African Council of Churches *and now a senior adviser* to Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, said he was part of the Mandela Crisis Committee. "The reaction of 'Mama' was of a person under siege. The reaction was to say: You are talking like the [apartheid] system," he said, using *the name by which supporters refer* to Mrs Mandela.

Aubrey Mokoena, now an MP, declined under repeated questioning to condemn directly Mrs Mandela's actions and said she might have been unaware of the criminal and brutal behaviour of her entourage.

Sydney Mufamadi, who was also a member of the group and is now minister in charge of the police, said they were once allowed to meet *three of the five youths allegedly* being held at Mrs Mandela's home.

Mr Mufamadi said all three bore fresh wounds, but that the other two attributed their injuries to falling from trees. He said the group did not dare to confront Mrs Mandela with the allegation that the boys had been kidnapped and were being assaulted because they could not offer the children sanctuary.

Chikane: "She was like a person under siege"

Mr Mufamadi earlier submitted to the commission several internal documents, including one which reported to ANC leaders. One read: "It is with a feeling of terrible sadness that we consider it necessary to express our reservations about *Winnie Mandela's judgment* in relation to the Mandela Football Club."

In another letter, the group appealed to Tambo in London: "Help us. Map out the way forward ... pertaining to Winnie's political life."

However, while members of the Mandela Crisis Committee appeared unwilling to censure her directly, a senior member of the Government accused Mrs Mandela of *condoning or participating* in criminal activity and said she should be declared unfit to hold public office.

Azar Cachalia, now Secretary for Safety and Security, and Murphy Morobe, a former activist who now heads the Government's Financial and *Fiscal Commission, testified* jointly about the football club's reign of terror.

In what Mr Cachalia called "perhaps the most sickening case", *he said two youths were abducted* to Mrs Mandela's home during the final phase of white rule and were accused by the football club, which he called "a vigilante gang", of being police informers.

"On one of them the letter 'M' was sliced into his chest with a penknife and the words 'Viva ANC' were carved down his right thigh. The second youth also had the words 'Viva ANC' carved on his back.

"*At best for Mrs Mandela*, she was aware and encouraged this criminal activity. At worst, she directed it and actively participated in the assaults," Mr Cachalia said.

☐ **Piet Retief:** *Truth commission* investigators have found the bodies of more than 260 ANC guerrillas killed and secretly buried by the apartheid security forces, an investigator said. Fifteen bodies were exhumed near the border with Swaziland yesterday. *(AFP)*

Police arrest tenth of the force

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
IN JOHANNESBURG

MORE than 10,000 South African police — almost a tenth of the force — were arrested in the 15 months from January 1996 to May 1997 for *alleged crimes ranging from* armed robbery and theft to rape and corruption.

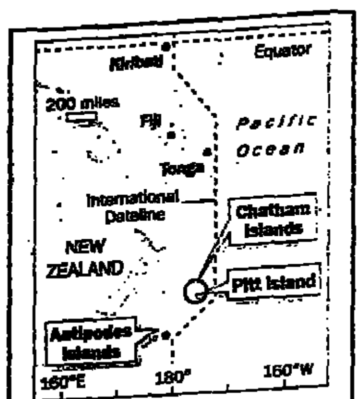
Sydney Mufamadi, the Safety and Security Minister, has told *parliament* that the 10,313 officers were linked to crimes including 107 armed robberies, 653 thefts, 193 corruption cases, illegal possession of firearms, rape, reckless driving *and murder. Of those held, 412* have so far been convicted.

In the most recent incident, Inspector Thembinkosi Ntando, 31, was apprehended for robbing a *post office. Charges included robbery*, illegal possession of a firearm and car theft. He fled before trial and is still at large.

Joseph Ngobeni, a police spokesman, said the reasons police turned to crime "can be attributed to a lack of self-discipline and a lack of loyalty and pride in the South African police services".

The problem had been exacerbated by the amalgamation of apartheid's 11 policing agencies — and 11 different disciplinary codes — under one democratic policing *umbrella, in 1995.*

However, he maintained that the problem was being addressed, and that "one uniform single code of conduct was implemented last month to prevent confusion, which we hope will assist towards our goals".



Islanders will see dawn of a new age

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

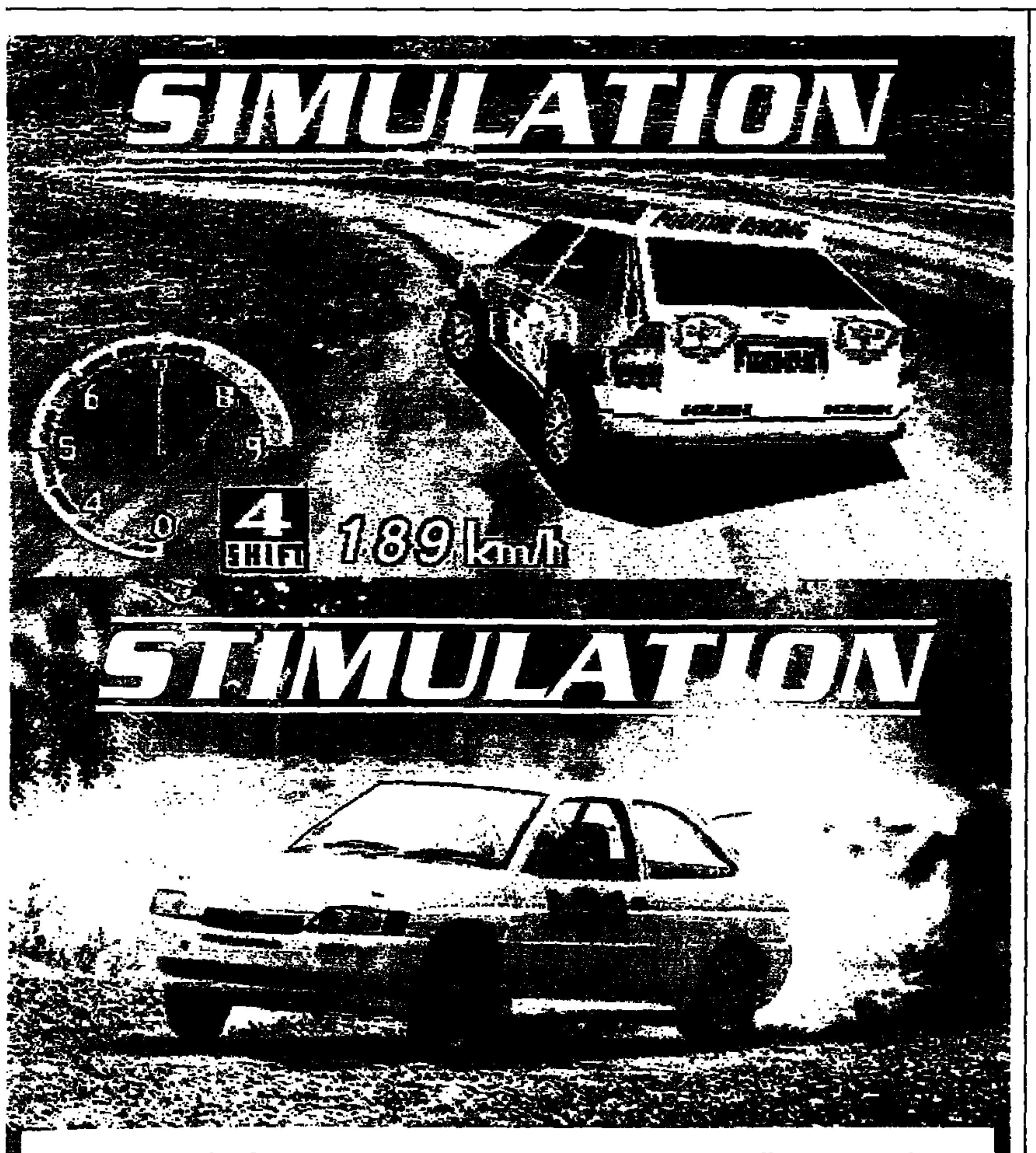
THE first inhabited land to greet the sun as the new millennium dawns will be Pitt *Island*, a rocky New Zealand dependency that is home to 750 people and 250,000 sheep.

Standing on Hakepa Hill, the lucky islanders and any *tourists* and television crews that have paid to attend will see the sun rise 14 seconds before 4.45am local time on the morning of January 1, 2000. In Britain, it will still be 4pm on the afternoon of December 31, 1999. The truly *adventurous might anticipate* the Pitt Island dawn by five minutes by going to the uninhabited Antipodes Islands further south.

The calculations appear in the latest edition of *The Geographical Journal*. Unimportant as they seem, much may hang on them, because *two rival groups are aiming to* sell television and media rights to the first sunrise of the new millennium.

One group is headed by Norris McWhirter, the former *Guinness Book of Records* editor, who is also one of the authors of the *Geographical Journal* article. Its results will please him, because the Millennium Adventure Company that he heads has bought up *part of Hakepa Hill and plans* to sell the rights.

A rival consortium, First-Light 2000, has claimed that the hill is usually mist-*shrouded at dawn, and is* offering five other sites on Pitt Island. The claim has been derided by Millennium Adventure, who said the hill is no mistier than any other part of the island.



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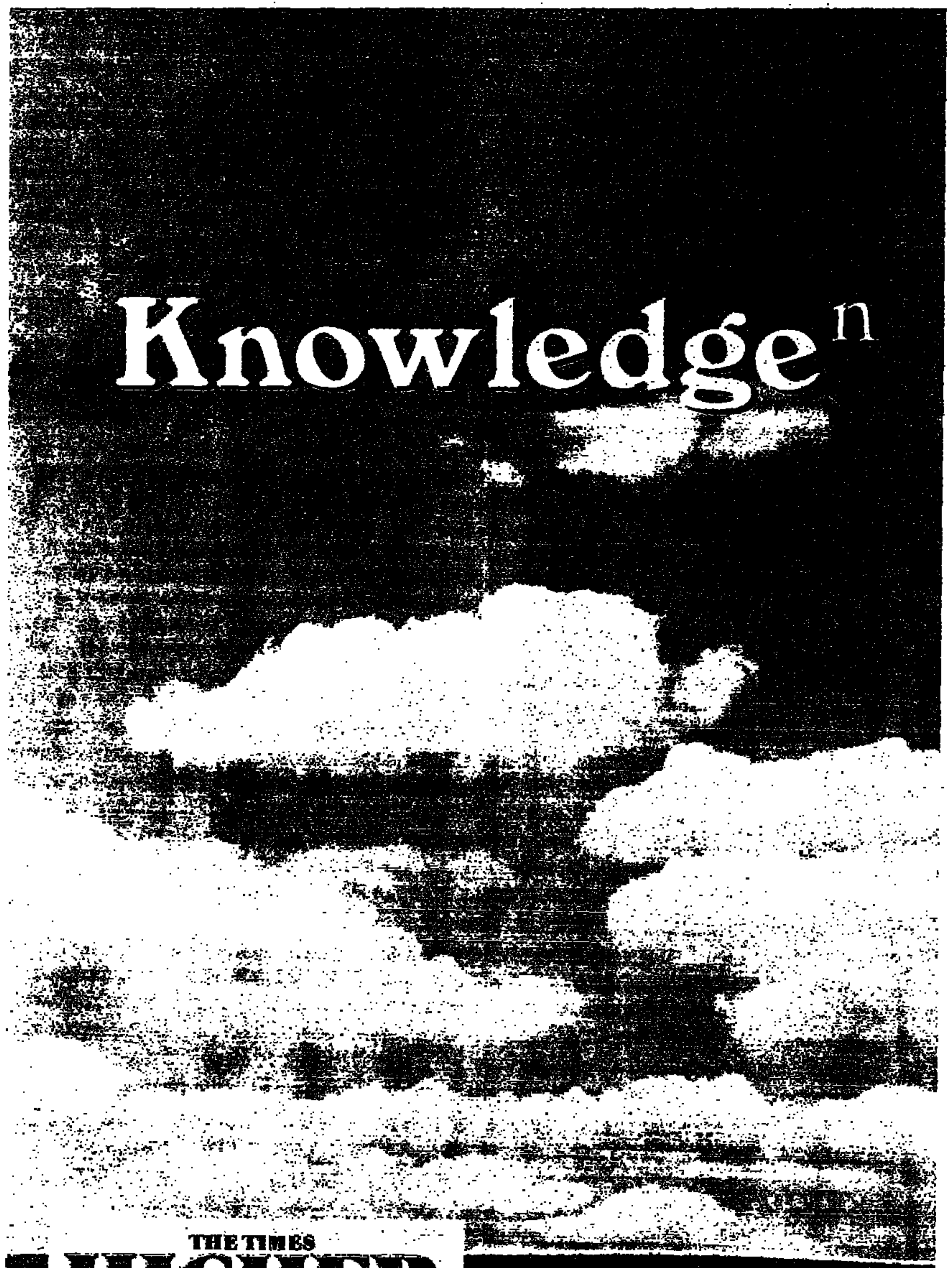

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A long struggle between the Acts

Entertaining but exasperating: **Adams Mars-Jones** charts the battle for homosexual law reform from newly released government documents

The trouble with socialism, according to Oscar Wilde, was that it would take too many evenings. The trouble with homosexual law reform in this country, as it trundled erratically towards the achievement of the Sexual Offences Act of 1967, was that it took altogether too many mornings, afternoons and evenings.

The Public Record Office has released a great tranche of documents relevant to the struggle, most of them covering familiar ground but some of them full of entertainment value in their own exasperating way.

Labouchère's Amendment, the notorious "blackmailer's charter" of 1885 that prohibited all forms of sexual activity between men, was tacked onto "a Bill to make further provision for the protection of women and girls" and took far less than an evening to bring about. The chamber was half empty and there was virtually no debate. It occupies a third of a column in *Hansard*. It took millions of man hours, from the 1950s on, to supplant it.

It is no news that those who introduced reforming legislation, Lord Arran in the Upper House and Leo Abse in the Lower, had nothing to gain personally from a liberalisation of society's atmosphere and were anxious that their position not be misconstrued. Arran later admitted to having spent a year "permanently, if slightly pickled", after the walls of his office, his club, and many Underground stations were daubed with the message "Arran homo".

Part of the documentation, though, is new: a transcript of a BBC interview from June 1962, between Leo Abse and Edward Gardner, MP. The most interesting passage was cut from the broadcast, either for technical reasons or to smooth ruffled feathers. Abse starts by pointing out that a Government which hopes to take Britain into the Common Market will find itself in a peculiar position "if a man can be living with an adult, let us say in Denmark, and if he comes into this country, he can find himself subjected to the criminal law".

The invocation of Europe is astute and even prophetic: the 1967 Act was found by the European Commission in 1981 to have breached the European Convention by excluding Northern Ireland from its provisions. But Edward Gardner shrewdly shifts the discussion from Denmark to somewhere insidiously southern and corrupting. He agrees that there is a different atmosphere "shall we say in a place like Capri?", where homosexuality can be indulged "on a whim". Mr Abse is reduced to spluttering "I have never been to Capri ... from what you tell me, I have no desire to go there, because I would find it particularly offensive, if the atmosphere which could only be shown by public homosexual behaviour came to my notice."

In a more classically educated age, the reference to Capri was particularly deadly. This was the island where, as Suetonius recorded, Tiberius trained boys to pleasure him while swimming. To link a law reformer to Capri was to associate him with the most sadistic decadence.

No wonder politicians struck an almost pathologically healthy note: The Home Office spokesman, Lord Stonham, told his fellow peers: "I must have been remarkably lucky or exceptionally blind but, during a fairly active life among men, including 25 years' participation in team games, I did not personally encounter homosexuality ... most of us know that in Ancient Greece even Olympic heroes took male lovers. Looked at through the mists of 2,000 years it became etherealised and possible. Looked at in a 1965 magistrates court it was at best impossible, at worst bestial."

Reformer Leo Abse suffered taunts and abuse

It sounds like an opponent of law reform speaking; in fact, it was a supporter. When two law lords (Kilmuir and Goddard) referred with apparent authority to the existence of "buggers' clubs" and "sodomitic societies" it was Stonham who had to be briefed to rebut them. The opinion of the Director of Public Prosecutions was sought. His office replied that no such places had existed in London for ten years, according to Scotland Yard. There was, however, a rider: "We, of course, have had a number of cases involving what may be described as a 'nest' of buggers, but these involved the use of premises by these people as a focal point for meeting from which they would go independently to other premises to commit their respective offences." This is a familiar double standard. *I* go with my girlfriend to a lovers' lane, *you* have sex in public. *I* go with my wife to a wine and cheese party: *you* frequent a nest of buggers. Labouchere's Amendment warped millions of lives between 1885 and 1967. The best monument to those lives is *Between The Acts*, a book of oral histories edited by Kevin Porter and Jeffrey Weeks, full of sadness, humour and revelation.

These interviews were conducted in 1978-79 with the financial help of the Social Science Research Council, until an incoming Government with a different agenda cut the Council's funds. On the evidence of these 15 life histories, it may be that it was the Second World War which made homosexual law reform inevitable. When half the world was in uniform and far from home, a subculture that thrived on anonymity received a massive boost, and the blackout made darkness general, public places private.

Theatregoers in London can currently learn about the recent Dark Ages of homosexual life from two plays. The revival of Mart Crowley's *The Boys in the Band* from 1968 at the Aldwych is a reminder of life before liberation — a not particularly welcome reminder for a gay generation that takes its rights for granted. Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love* at the National Theatre has Labouchere as a character, although refracted through the memories and imagination of the play's central character, A.E. Housman. At one point in Stoppard's dream-play, Labouchere even claims to have devised his amendment as a way of forcing the withdrawal of an Act he thought badly drafted, and to have no personal objection to "a French kiss and what-you-fancy between two chaps safe at home with the door shut". If only!

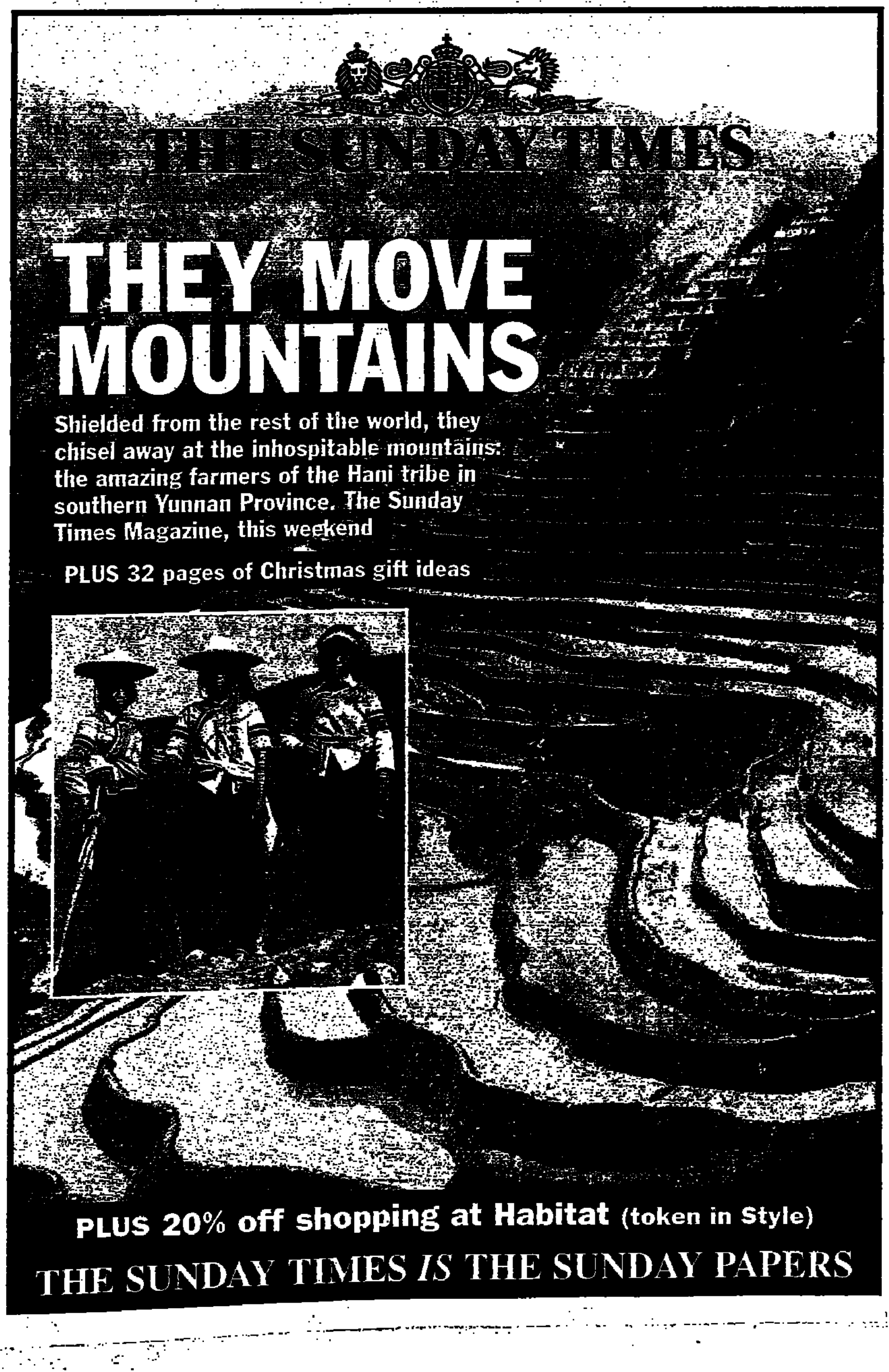
Stoppard in his play is able to do without apparent effort what those law reformers found so hard: to take homosexual emotion seriously. His Housman's jokes and sadnesses, large regrets and small fulfilments, are both particular and universal pangs.

In the years immediately after the 1967 Act, prosecutions went down, not up. Pretty policemen were used for purposes of entrapment until a year or two ago. There are still discriminatory offences on the statute book, such as "soliciting for an immoral purpose," and there is still no equality in the age of consent.

As the newly released documents reveal, in June 1967, José Aponte from the Attorney-General's Office of Puerto Rico, wrote to the Home Office, asking for assistance. He had been charged with gathering groundwork for the sections on homosexuality and obscenity of a new penal code for his country, and needed help with the "difficult work of exploring new ways for a sane and modern administration of justice". An official reply was duly drafted, laying out the glories of the British legal system as it applies to those areas. A more truthful response at the time might have been: If it's sanity and modernity you want, ask someone else.

CORBIS-BETTMANN

The battle goes on: there are still discriminatory offences on the statute book, and there is still no equality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Like the real thing, but so much better

Faking it is no longer the cheapskate's alternative, nor is it a reaction to the animal rights lobby. It's fashionable, says Style Editor **Grace Bradberry**

Watching the catwalk shows for the current season was a bit like witnessing a reconstruction of Noah's Ark. Only occasionally did the models come down two by two, but the array of animal pelts was striking. From snake and crocodile through to cosy sheepskins, designers' animal instincts were given free rein.

Not all of it was the genuine article. To the horror of campaigners, real fur has indeed made a comeback. But at the same time, artificial substitutes for every type of animal skin are finding new credibility. Faking it is no longer a cheapskate's alternative nor a reaction to animal rights' lobbying, but a positive choice.

The British designer Paul Frith, whose sleek "leather" suiting is sold in the designer rooms of Harrods, among others, uses almost exclusively leatherette. Joseph, while designing and selling the real thing, has rescued PVC trousers from their uncomfortable, fetishist beginnings. They come in every colour, in shiny and matte finishes, in fake snakeskin, in hipster and bootleg cuts . . . and nobody, but nobody, would judge them inferior to leather.

As designers have experimented, so the high street has been able to get in on the act, producing leatherette side-split skirts, jackets, suedette shirts and trousers, and fake-fur collared coats that are desirable in their own right, rather than as cheap copies of catwalk designs. All the leathers, suedes and furs shown here are fake.

Indeed, the fake fabrics themselves are taking on a style status of their own, independent of the things they were designed to imitate. Stephen Higginson, editor of *International Textiles*, compares it to the rise of Australian and New Zealand wines: "When people first began drinking them, they would talk of a wine being like a bordeaux or a French chardonnay. Then it became, 'This isn't *like* anything, it is what it is.' Similarly with these new fabrics. As designers experiment, their artificiality is seen as a positive thing."

Breakthroughs in technology have given the new fabrics breathability, and Lycra has added stretch. Other advances in microfibres have vastly improved the tactile qualities and appearance. Some are more versatile than real animal skins. They also take colour better, and their performance ratings are higher.

Even so, says Higginson: "At the designer end of things you never quite know what things are made of, unless it's a capsule collection made at the behest of, say, Tencel.

"Rich people always like to think that they've got the genuine article. But style is everything now. It's what it looks like and feels like that counts."

> 'It's far more exciting to source a new fabric than to buy part of a cow'

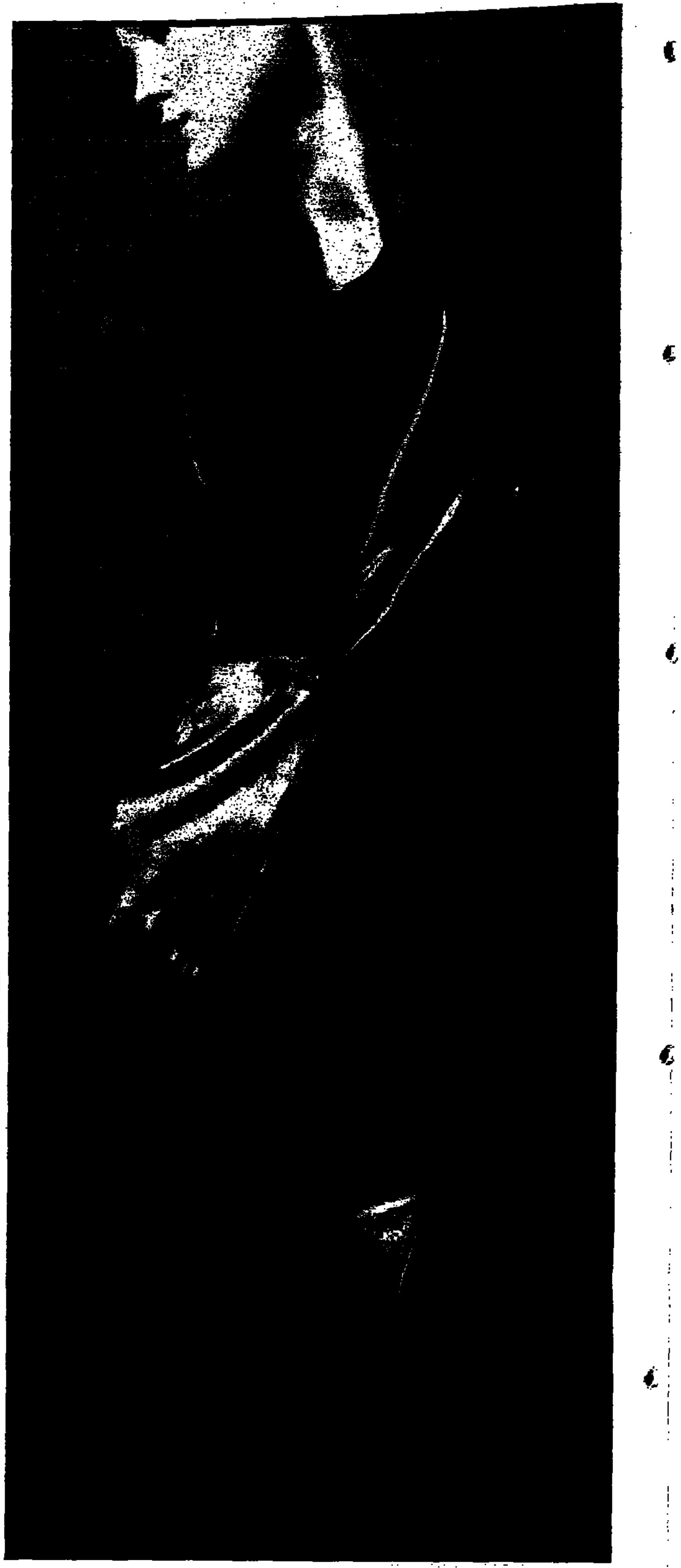
The attachment to the real thing, however, remains strong with more status-orientated consumers. In *The Language of Clothes*, Alison Lurie suggests: "To some extent, fabric always stands for the skin of the person beneath it." This can be purely to do with visual impact — the cold-blooded impact of snakeskin, the sexual connotations of fox fur and the "foxy lady" image. But it can boil down to money. As Lurie puts it: "Most purchasers of fur coats are unfamiliar with the behaviour of the beasts from which they come: all they want to say is 'I am a very expensive animal.'"

In this spirit, American *Vogue* ran an entire shoot called Svelte Pelts in which everything was real. Dolce & Gabbana and Gucci's fox-fur trimmed coats, Etro's Mongolian lambswool coat, and Versace's cashmere cardigan with fox-fur trim were exercises in unabashed consumption.

At the other end of the scale from this kind of retro romanticism, however, slouches the high-trash rock chick glamour of Alexander McQueen and Anna Molinari. Punched-out holes, slashed fringing and "binliner"-style dresses with flat necklines hark back to the style of such tough rock women as Chrissie Hynde, Patti Smith and Siouxsie Sioux. It's a punk-goth-rock'n'roll thing, reminiscent of Kensington Market in the late Seventies and the early Eighties.

Thankfully, stylists have found a middle ground between this kind of hard-edged aesthetic and the romantic opulence of designers such as John Galliano for Dior and Dolce & Gabbana. By mixing fabrics and putting traditionally heavier outdoor pieces with lighter textures, they've created a day to evening look that softens and feminises Eighties aggro-chic, and tones down the outrageously expensive allure of the lusher pieces. Sheer tops go under leather suits. A woolly jumper offsets a rich, fur-collared coat. Shapes are sleek and colours such as aubergine, burgundy and olive green mix in with harsher blacks and browns.

Take away the styling, however, and there's often a futuristic edge to some of the pieces. Warren Griffiths, a London-based designer who experiments with new materials, believes that this is the way things are going. "People will talk about whether a particular designer is about cut or fabric. But everybody can cut. Some of the most interesting companies are using new fabrics, but with a very simple cut. I don't think it is necessary to use real skins. It's far more exciting to source a new fabric than to buy part of a cow."



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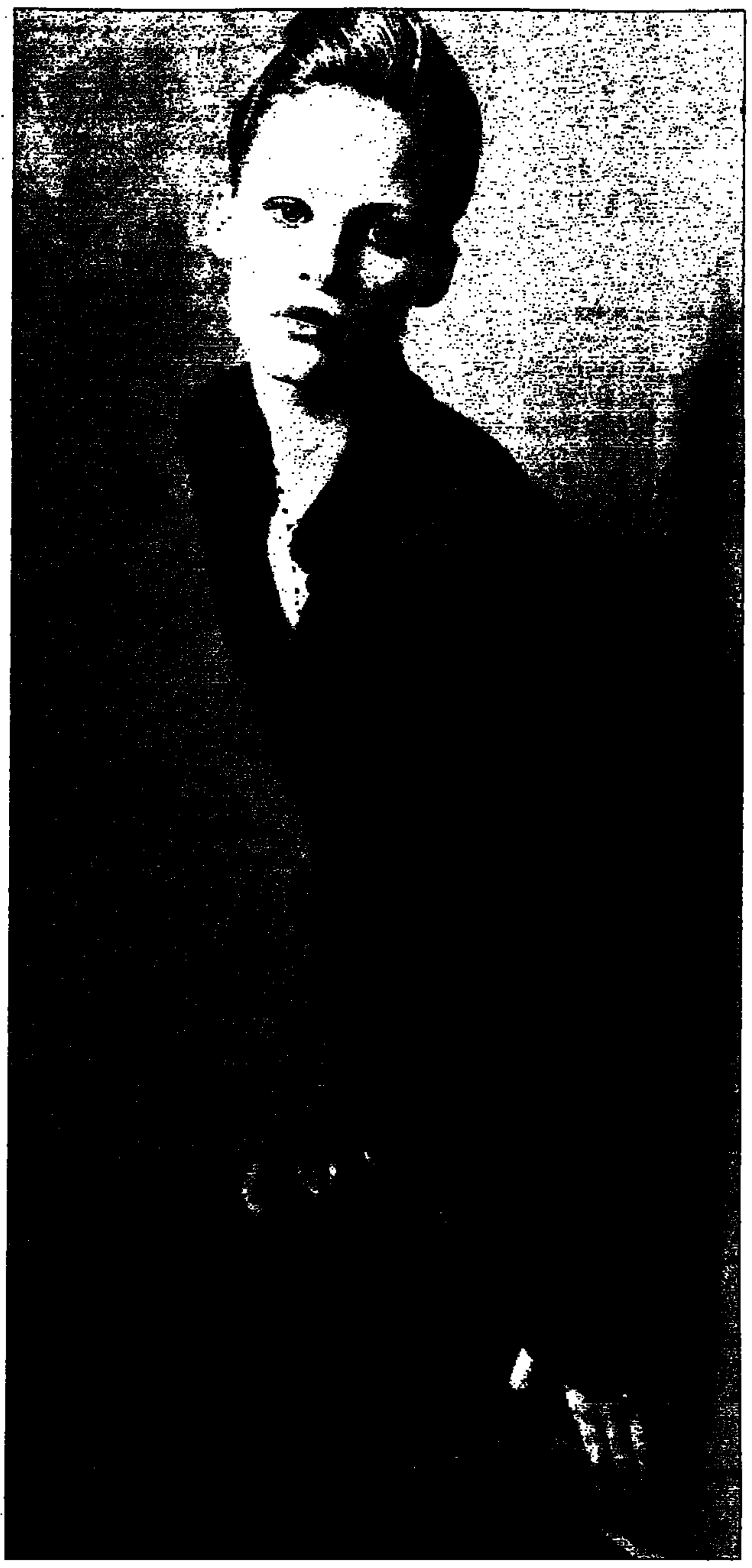

OPPOSITE PAGE:
Chocolate PVC one-button jacket, £79, and matching pencil skirt, £49.99, by Kookai, 123 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-937 4411). Burgundy cowl neck, £125, by Patrick Cox, 129 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-730 8886)

TOP LEFT (main picture):
Pale grey and olive striped devoré tank, £90 by Ghost, 36 Ledbury Road, London W11 (0181-960 3121). Burgundy A-line leatherette skirt, £65, by Wit and Wisdom at Hype DF, 48-52 Kensington High Street (0171-937 6355)

TOP RIGHT:
Brown suedette shirt, £26.99, by Oasis, available from branches nationwide (01865 881986). Chocolate PVC pencil skirt, £150, by Plein Sud at Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW3. Black bead and diamanté necklace, £26, by Agatha, 4 South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-495 2779) Burgundy velvet ankle boots, £275, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street (0171-235 2932)

BOTTOM LEFT:
Burgundy velvet belted coat with fake-fur trim, £339 by Joseph, 26 Sloane Street (0171-590 6200) Pale pink and black embroidered skirt, £468, and black silk underslip, £78, by Elspeth Gibson at A La Mode, Hans Crescent, London SW1 (Inquiries: 0171-561 0773). Petrol blue leather stiletto ankle boots, £295, by Gina for Ghost

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Lilac cable-knit poloneck, £75 by Whistles, 27 Sloane Street (0171-730 9819). Chocolate suedette side-slit mini, £29.99, by Jane Norman, from branches nationwide (0171-437 0132). Plum velvet knee boots, £169, by L.K Bennett, 31 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-491 3005). Opaque tights by Wolford

Photographer:
ALEX SARGINSON
Stylist: Sunny Rowley
Hair: Nicola Clarke for Andrew José
Make-up: Sarah Boak at Terrie Tanaka
Model: Lydia M at Storm

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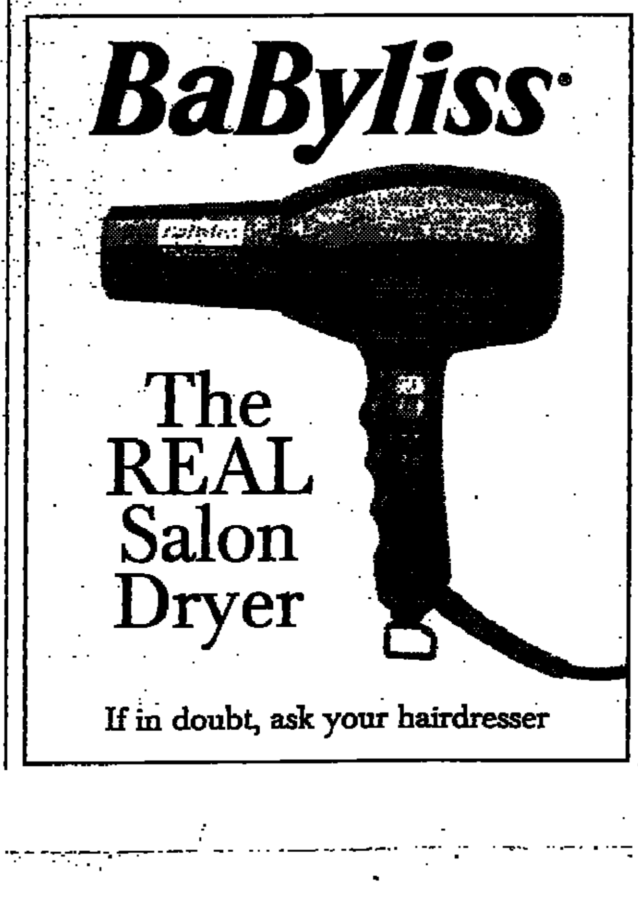

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Is Blair too flexible to be a friend?

The trade unions still have their reservations, says **John Lloyd**

Flexibility is one of the great words of the end of the millennium. It has resonance. We know it is in some way right. It signifies the end of an era of late-industrial relationships in which places were, for a time, known and in which classes were, though never static, defined. It points out the potentials and dilemmas of an age in which symbols are often more important than objects. Its very omni-applicability and vagueness excite the imagination. It conjures up a world of endless malleability, in which the blocks and contradictions of life can be dissolved in an appeal to be flexible.

The logic of an age in which information-based capitalism is so rapidly replacing industrial capitalism means that the moorings to which societies tied themselves are loosened. No skill is forever learnt: no corporation is secure; no job, or at least no job description, is for life. Even if the insecurities of modern employment have been exaggerated, there is no doubt that the insecurities felt by many workers in advanced societies are real.

Flexibility in work seems to mean the emergence of a society in which a few who can best grasp and manipulate both information and people are rewarded highly. They become, in Tom Wolfe's satire of the information society, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, "Lords of the Universe". The majority cope with the new societies more or less well. They are often enriched by the intellectual possibilities opened for them and by the end of the settled, sometimes oppressive relationships which characterised the industrial order.

Britain is the easiest country in which to fire people

But a large number are excluded and *marginalised*. They are useless — literally — *for there is simply no work for* their idle hands. Their intel*lects have not been trained, or* they do not stretch them, to *cope with even the lower level* of information tasks. Karl Marx *saw the rise of the* proletariat as a force which *could and would expropriate* the expropriators, or capitalists. Now, the new Lords of the Universe are expropriating the proletariat. A new capitalism's flexible financial universe renders the workers workless, and makes of them an underclass.

This is the universe in which new Labour operates. It is itself a lord of it. This week, one of new Labour's more ambiguous figures tried to set some solid ground below his part of it. John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, is ambiguous not in his person, but in his relation to the "project". He has been seen, not wholly wrongly, as involved. He explicitly pursues a new unionism, seeking (as all union leaders in advanced societies must) to marry necessary flexibility with the continuation of a trade union role.

Yet he gave a speech on Wednesday evening to the Jim Conway Foundation which took direct issue with flexibility in its new Labour guise. *Conceding the centrality of the* word, he said that it "concealed *more than it illuminated*". New ways of working were inevitable: a recasting of industrial society and of welfare states overdue.

But, he held, the awkward fact was that flexibility was interpreted as a lowering or ending of employment protection; declining unionisation; lower unemployment benefits. Britain, he said, tops the *flexibility league in two ways:* it is the easiest country in which to fire people *and it has* the lowest capital employed per worker.

Nor can it be said that where unions are strong, employment protection robust and benefits high, *there is* always higher unemployment. *There is such a relationship if* there are no active labour market policies: but otherwise no such conclusion can be drawn. He has put these points to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said he was interested, and asked for more information.

Tony Blair may well be interested. But he is governed by a fear — a fear of being seen to slip back into old Labour attitudes. Thus when he was interviewed about his pitch to fellow European heads of government at the jobs summit in Amsterdam last weekend, he said three times that the way to create jobs "is not to load a whole lot of costs on business" but to invest in education, setting a stable framework.

Gordon Brown's green Budget this past week was a lesson in setting a stable framework, new Labour-style. In confirming the cut in benefits to single-parent families by up to £11 a week and at the same time assisting the poorer pensioners over the winter, he gave flesh to what has always been *his conception* — to attract or push the able-bodied *into work of any kind*, and to be as generous as prudence *allows to the old and the sick*.

This is why the Labour leadership is nervous *about the pro-trade* union measures to which they *are committed* — *especially the* minimum wage and statutory recognition of trade unions. The leadership wants the wage to be set *just* above a level at which it would be wholly *meaningless*; and it wants the unions to produce an agreement with the CBI which will show its members to be happy to recognise unions where they organise a majority of workers. It fears it will get neither — and if so, that it will have industrial battles, and turn a flank to the Tories at last.

John Monks wants to marry flexibility with social justice, including social justice at work. New Labour likes the sound of that; but the reality of it will be hard to deliver. The Prime Minister shies away from it as a horse from fire. This Government will try, which is more than one could say of the last one. But it will take a very good trick indeed to pull off such a marriage.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.

And then there were none

Casting out his Europhiles would lose Hague allies and not impress voters

Matthew Parris

I was about seven, and we lived in Nicosia. My friend was a good-natured boy called David Gray. A year older, he was from a Yorkshire family and talked like William Hague.

We both had bicycles: his new, mine with no brakes. Playing by the dried-up river, we agreed it would be dangerous and fun to try freewheeling down the steep track to the bottom of the gorge. I urged David to try, on my old bike. I did mention the problem with the brakes but suggested that this added to the excitement. Oddly, in retrospect, David did not insist that a more suitable person to take risks on my bike was me. "Go on," I said, "you try!"

He did. He gathered speed, lost balance and fell off. Though not seriously hurt, he gashed his jaw. David, if you are alive and reading this, I am sorry I talked you into it. And I am truly sorry that when you staggered back up the track with blood on your face, I lost my nerve and scarpered. I was afraid of your mother. The incident reflects badly *on my character*.

And now a new danger. People in *newspapers are persuading William* Hague to go freewheeling without *brakes down a steepening slope*: and although I am sure that if William *falls off*, Bruce Anderson would own up and take him home, no stitches *would mend Mr Hague's leadership* as they did Master Gray's jaw.

One cites Bruce Anderson, the political editor of *The Spectator*, because nobody more persuasively puts the case for brakeless bicycling. He put it to me, on the letters page opposite. I had written in these columns that since Oppositions do not govern, they should feel in no hurry to settle policy on every awkward issue. Who knows? I said, events may settle the single currency question. Europhiles or Eurosceptics may wish to shift position later.

Bruce disagrees. He wrote *The Times* a courteous letter putting with passion the case for decisive action to settle the Tory course at once in a Eurosceptic direction. If there are some who are reluctant to march, he said, it is better they leave now. His argument is powerful, rational and profoundly unwise.

Anderson has been impressed, I suspect, by the way Labour has dealt *with its hard Left*. He concludes that you can strip backsliders from a *political party rather as you pick the* black bits from a peeled potato, *leaving* an essentially wholesome vegetable for the pot. And the sooner the better.

So there are a few wobblers over Hague's "not for a decade" approach to the single currency? So what? Ten times that number are loyal. Good riddance to dissenters! Teach them a lesson, stiffen the doubters, impress the public, kill the issue in the press, and free Hague's sword to strike at Labour! Look what leaving the dispute to simmer did to Major. Let's sort this thing out once for all.

Ah Bruce, read Tamburlaine. How balefully does that sentiment "once for all" echo down the centuries. How much blood which drew more blood, how many wars-to-end-all-wars, final reckonings whose bottom line began a new and bitter account, how many partnerships which *foundered upon the* rock of a truth that should never have *been spoken ... do we owe to the* impatient rationality which insists *we stop the jaw-jaw, cock our pistols* and be done with it?

The Conservative Party is not a potato, and its "positive Europeans" are not isolated and superficial rotten spots upon the clean, white, orthodox flesh of Euroscepticism. The better analogy is with peeling an onion. As with an onion, there is no "core" Conservative Party but an interleaving of layers, all of them integral to the organism. Your onion, and your Tory party, do not divide into kernel — "essential onion" — and peel. In the end it is all peel. Remove one layer and you expose the next.

I hold no brief for Hugh Dykes. His arrogant certainties on Europe irritate me. But he is no socialist. Peel off Dykes and you expose Peter Temple-Morris.

I hold no brief for Peter Temple-Morris. His vanity annoys me. But he is not a *bad* man. He managed to stay a Conservative MP for 23 years, most under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher. So peel off Temple-Morris, you say, Bruce? Heaven knows it was easy to justify: Peter was offside and will not be missed.

But was it necessary? To push him before he jumped restored a dignity he had begun to lose — but push they did. One more layer of peel departs the onion. Edwina Currie will be exposed next. Well, Bruce, I can hear you as I write: hooray, you say, the sooner that cow departs, the better.

I do not agree. Edwina is infuriating and her mania for publicity, I know, drives colleagues up the wall. But she is also a talented, brave and thoughtful woman, and one of the best communicators the Tories have.

Ah well, another one bites the dust. A leaner, fitter onion now?

And then you have David Curry and Ian Taylor, both of whom have quit as Tory spokesmen. I hear no breath from either that they would contemplate quitting the party — but in the end both may. These are *men* of ability and uncom*mon sense*. Few other junior ministers *breathed the calm* competence which was Taylor's hall*mark. Curry's good brain and palpa*ble decency marked him for an *important post in a future Cabinet.* Skipton & Ripon did not fall, as *neighbouring Harrogate did, to the* Liberals, but Curry is vulnerable to a Lib-Lab voting pact. He would be a heavyweight catch for the Liberal Democrats at Westminster — and I bet Paddy Ashdown would deal. The onion shrinks. Who next?

I realise Bruce might regard the departure of Sir Edward Heath as a cause for celebration, but I do think that to lose a former Prime Minister would look like carelessness. Anyone who thinks Sir Edward incapable of this shocking act does not know Ted. The party is diminished, but Bruce and a platoon of right-wing leader-writers are still cheering.

We peer into the crystal ball. 1998. The cheering grows a little ragged as Kenneth Clarke, Chris Patten, Michael Heseltine and John Gummer are rumoured to be wavering. George Young has resigned from the Shadow Cabinet. Alastair Goodlad has thrown in the towel. Michael Ancram mutters. Stephen Dorrell stays but, with John Maples, looks out of place. Norman Fowler, loyal but troubled, retires. Cecil Parkinson, retired, is rude about his leader at dinner parties. Also in the Lords, Geoffrey Howe is openly contemptuous and Douglas Hurd privately dismissive.

It is 1999. Mr Hague now depends very heavily on John Redwood, Michael Howard, Brian Mawhinney, Iain Duncan Smith (who has brought Julian Lewis and John Bercow in on his coat-tails) and Alan Duncan. Julian Brazier is made a junior defence spokesman.

And what baffles pollsters is that respondents consistently declare their views on Europe to be closely mirrored by this new Tory Likud; yet when asked to choose words which best describe the Tories, they select "narrow", "ideological", "unkind" and "extreme". Something measured, venerable, tolerant, careful; something ... *safe* seems to have gone from the Conservative Party. Perhaps because we voters are secretly less confident of our opinions than we pretend, we place more importance on a party's prudential qualities — its affability and caution, its general air of good sense — than upon any particular congruence between its spokesmen's opinions and our own.

The year 2000 arrives. *The Times* runs a leading article declaring that *the purge has been more protracted* than was hoped, but now the party is *ready. At 17 per cent in the polls, it* can only be up! Heseltine retires and *at the ensuing by-election, the Tories* lose Henley.

Now Bruce: I don't know about you, my friend, but this prospect does not please me. You and I agree about the single currency, but our Conservative onion was always a multi-layered thing and for 20 years — since Chris Patten hired us both at the Conservative Research Department — we stayed friends with Tories who took another view. Is the day coming when an openly gay man might be waved through into the Shadow Cabinet, guiltily hiding his secret doubt about whether, if the euro succeeds, Tories might not need to think again? How far should inclusiveness go?

One has to be very sure — gripped by the centrality of one's cause, certain it could not be mistaken — before one drives old friends away instead of trying to talk them round. Confident that problems with the single currency will out, I am not so inflamed as to be prepared to put my party to the sword of my opinions.

I fear the Conservative Party is riding for a fall. Forty years ago I failed one Yorkshireman by egging him on. I will not do the same to another.

Don't kill off king coal

Keep our energy options open, says **Yvette Cooper**

What's a bright young woman like *you doing* defending an old, dirty, declining industry like that? *This* was the question implicit in the *Times* article yesterday which described me as a Blairite MP forced to defend the threatened coal industry. The journalist clearly found it hard to believe that a young woman, so closely associated with new Labour, should be standing up for an industry so *strongly* linked to Arthur Scargill.

Safeguarding our collieries is being *portrayed* as a hopelessly nostalgic and uneconomic thing to do. Modern, hard-headed economists should — so the story goes — just let the market rip and shrug their shoulders if coal goes under.

But to caricature the debate in this way is not just wrong; it is dangerous. *This is not* to say that I believe the Government should leap in whenever big employers are in trouble. It can't. A sensible modern industrial *policy recognises* that in some markets free competition promotes the public interest, but in others — where there is monopoly power, for instance — *regulation is* essential. Energy markets are already regulated. But *this is not working to promote the* public interest. Both coal and the consumer *are losing out.*

When the energy industry was privatised, the previous Conservative Government handed over the lion's share of our generating capacity to two major companies: PowerGen and National Power. This duopoly has been able to use the strange mechanism of setting electricity prices (the pool) to keep customer bills, and their own profits, unfairly high.

Instead of breaking up the duopoly, reforming the pool or pushing prices down, the regulator chose to encourage new companies to enter the market, building power stations of their own. As gas-fired power stations are cheaper to construct than coal-fired stations, the push for new players turned into a dash for gas.

The regulator then permitted these new power producers to agree long-term contracts at high prices with the regional electricity companies that part-own them and then pass the costs on to their captive customers — us. These so-called "sweetheart deals" continue to exclude coal. Add into the equation subsidies to foreign coal and nuclear power, and it is clear that the playing field isn't level.

John Battle was right to launch a full review *of the pool and to decide* this week to send those sweetheart *deals back to the regulator for review.* But there is a further reason for *action.*

No other market could switch our lights off, our life-support machines off, our computers off, or — heaven forbid — our televisions off. Few other markets have such considerable impact on our macroeconomic stability either. Without coal, we could end up with 70-80 per cent of our energy needs supplied by gas — a vulnerable position. In 20 or 30 years' time (when I shall still be in my fifties), British gas may not be as plentiful as it is today. With Algeria and Russia as the main alternative sources, it doesn't take a genius to work out that political instability could jeopardise our future economic security. Left to themselves, markets don't take account of those kinds of future political risks. Nations must.

The economist Dieter Helm, writing in the pages of this newspaper, recently argued that maintaining coal as an "insurance policy" was unjustified. The premium, he said, was just too great. But how on earth does he know that? The Government's Energy Advisory Panel, on which Mr Helm sits, says that not enough work has been done to know how great the risks really are.

We need urgent research into the level of risk we will face in future, so we can draw up a balanced strategy for responding to those risks.

It is time to go further. The Government, power generators and coal producers need to come together urgently to seek solutions. The Government needs to hasten the pool review. A moratorium should be called on new gas-fired power stations and we should support the development of clean coal technology. Both gas and electricity regulators must now take a more robust approach to competition, stop the long-term gas contracts and clamp down directly on abuses of market power.

Meanwhile, the companies *must* recognise their responsibility to become more productive and *efficient*, working for contracts rather than playing brinkmanship games with people's jobs and people's lives. Coal producers *must* go *out* and make the case for coal, rather than waiting for *government* help.

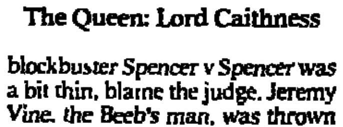
Coal should not be seen as an old *declining industry*, but as a modern, forward-looking industry, facing up *to the challenges* of competition and critical to our economic security. We need determined action now to get a fair deal and safeguard coal's future, not just *for* the sake of the 1,200 hard-working miners I represent, but for good economic and strategic reasons.

The author is MP for Pontefract and Castleford.

THE TIMES DIARY

Royal nosh

AFTER the hype surrounding the so-called "people's banquet", *celebrations for the golden wedding of the Queen and the Duke of* Edinburgh are taking a more traditional turn. The couple have been *invited for a secret feed at the House of Lords, courtesy of the Privy* Council. Some 300 politicos are to attend next month — and the seating *will conform strictly to rank. "The senior Counsellors will be placed near* Her Majesty," says the Clerk of the Council, referring to the Earl of Avon, *the Lord Chancellor ... you know the crowd. Happily, it also marks a* welcome return to the top table for the Earl of Caithness, the former minister whose wife, Diana, killed herself three years ago. The earl, now a successful estate agent, is expected to sit close to the Queen. People's champions Tony Benn and Lord Healey "will sit on other tables, slightly farther away".



The Queen: Lord Caithness

● *TUESDAY found Sir Tim Sainsbury partying at Somerset House, a ghoulish piece of masonry soon to be refurbished. The improvements, promised Sir Tim, would include making the courtyard "free of all cars". Odd, then, that staff had been instructed to create 11 courtyard parking slots for P-reg guests.*

Phone pest

IF YOU thought last night's BBC coverage from South Africa of the blockbuster Spencer v Spencer was a bit thin, blame the judge. Jeremy Vine, the Beeb's man, was thrown out of court after his mobile phone rang. The judge then asked Nicholas Mostyn, QC, a London lawyer, what would have happened to such a culprit in Britain. Mostyn said that a fat fine would be in order. He was in court as an expert witness for Earl Spencer, attempting to prevent his wife from landing too juicy a settlement. Odd, then, that Mostyn once explained that most of his work was defending the "underdog" wives of rich men.

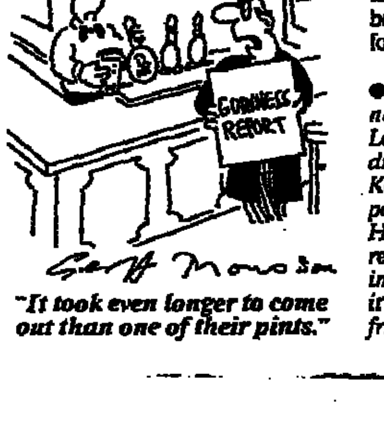
● *NOT CONTENT with the revenue from her salacious screen appearances, Sharon Stone has resorted to busking. Last week found her on the platform of a New York subway station, subjecting her fellow travellers to a rendition of* Amazing Grace. *Although even the politest present were heard to complain that she was rather out of tune, several coins were tossed in her direction (if only to shut her up).*

Missing vow

LATEST bulletin from the wedding preparations of William Hague: the refreshingly independent Ffion Jenkins will not vow to obey her husband, a man who *spends much of his time ordering* his MPs to toe the line. Traditional*ists will be relieved to hear that this* will be the only touchy-feely ele*ment to an otherwise traditional* service.

Ffion's refusal does not faze the Rev Donald Gray, who will conduct next *month's ceremony in the* Crypt Chapel at the House of Commons. "Most couples don't tend to obey," he says. "I always meet couples before a service and run through the options — the decision is entirely up to them."

Guests, meanwhile, have been startled by the prices of wedding *gifts on offer at the Wedding Shop.* "There's virtually nothing under *£100," grumbles one.*



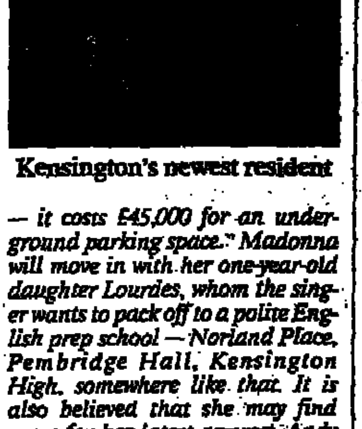
"It took even longer to come out than one of their pints."

Heavy pet

ADOLESCENT spirits at *Downside School — a monastic in*stitution in deepest Somerset — have been raised by a visit from Pet Shop Boy Chris Lowe. The word among the electric-harpsichord set is that Lowe wants to learn about Gregorian chanting, the music practised by the Downside monks, who released an album, *Gregorian Moods*, earlier this month.

Lowe, who was accompanied by the pockmarked old drummer Simon Gilbert, clearly endeared himself to his hosts. "He's brilliant," gushes the Headmaster, Father Anthony Sutch. "But I was too shy to tell them that I'd already been to the Pet Shop Boys concert for my birthday."

● *TRIUMPH, at last, for Madonna: after three weeks scouring London's cul-de-sacs for suitable digs, she has bought a house in Kensington for £4 million. The pad — bleak, Georgian, off the High Street — needs extensive renovation. "It doesn't look hugely impressive from the outside, but it's worth every penny," says a friend. "There's excellent security — it costs £45,000 for an underground parking space." Madonna will move in with her one-year-old daughter Lourdes, whom the singer wants to pack off to a polite English prep school — Norland Place, Pembridge Hall, Kensington High, somewhere like that. It is also believed that she may find room for her latest armrest, Andy Bird, 27, an aspiring actor from a rather more modest establishment in Warwickshire.*



Kensington's newest resident

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الأمل

GHOSTS OF LABOUR PAST

The *minimum* wage will benefit no one, least of all the poor

Yesterday's publication of the Bill to establish a national minimum wage was an act of ancestor-worship by the Government, a homage to the ghosts of old Labour past. Tony Blair's ambition to expand people's opportunities in a modern, competitive and humane Britain is ill-served by this irrelevant, economically illiterate and potentially harmful decision. To adapt Lord Keynes, it reveals the Prime Minister and his team as "the slaves of some defunct trade unionist". For Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, it was "a very proud day because it is the beginning of the end of poverty pay". It is better described as a detour from the Government's campaign to move people off welfare and into work — a strategy in which clumsy interventionist tinkering has no logical place.

Having fashioned this rod for its own back, the Government now confronts hard choices indeed, starting with the rate itself and its impact on employment. How will wages — which in the real world may include such things as tips, piecework rates, payments in kind such as subsidised meals or accommodation — be calculated? How will the minimum wage interact with benefit and taxes, if low income families are not to end up worse off? How often is the rate to be raised and on what basis? How can "catch-up" demands for higher wages by better-paid workers, or a growth in sub-minimum wage black market jobs, be avoided?

Ian McCartney, the minister responsible, says that it is up to the Low Pay Commission to come up with proposals, as also over whether to exclude trainees and young workers from the law. He insists that employers will learn to love the minimum wage because it will stop undercutting by bad employers and create a "level playing field". *But it is by enforcing competition that* governments best level playing fields, not by dictating rates of pay. The minister says that Britain should follow the example of other major Western European countries — and dismisses their double-digit unemployment figures as irrelevant. Tony Blair, who lectures them constantly on the need for flexible labour markets, should not.

The computer projections flooding into the Low Pay Commission cannot make comforting reading. They show that a very low minimum wage of £3 to £3.70 an hour would price few people out of jobs, but equally would do little to lift the low-paid out of poverty. To cease to depend on in-work benefits, most workers would have to work nearly 70 hours a week; and the main beneficiary would then be the Treasury, with the employee gaining as little as 3p in the pound. A higher minimum wage of £4.15 an hour, well below the £4.60 sought by trade unions, would greatly benefit those who keep their jobs, particularly the 800,000 very low-paid whose existing wages would nearly double. But according to a DTI estimate this year for the previous Government, if other workers maintained wage differentials, the cost would be 1.8 million jobs. If a minimum wage will not help the poor and could cost jobs, whom will it benefit? The answer, from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, is that most of the cash gain will go to middle-income families who are not affected by the benefits trap.

So either a minimum wage does little harm, but little good; or it risks harming the very poorest, those with no job at all, while damaging the overall economy. The Government's decision to set a flat rate for the whole country and all economic sectors suggests that it would prefer a rate too low to make an impact on the real world of work. The ancestors may not be so easily appeased. It *was unwise to disturb their sleep.*

OPEN SEASON

Hunt supporters must deploy calm reason and compromise

Twenty years ago the Commons chose to decriminalise an activity which was then offensive to many but which, as legislators realised, was even more offensive to liberal sentiment to ban. Yesterday's release of papers from the Public Record Office reminds us how hard it is now to imagine a Britain where homosexual acts between consenting men in private made convicts of the otherwise law-abiding. Those MPs who were brave enough to vote for tolerance, with their consciences and contrary to many of their constituents's views, were discharging the proper duty of parliamentarians.

Today the Commons will vote to ban the actions of another unpopular minority, *whose recreation, according to liberal sentiment,* ought not to be made illegal. Yet Michael Foster's Wild Animals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is certain to secure an overwhelming majority. Although it will not become law in this Parliamentary session, the will of the Commons is unlikely to be long frustrated.

The arguments have become bitter on both sides. However strongly any individual may object to another taking pleasure in hunting wild creatures, fox and staghunting can be vigorously defended as a leisure pursuit which a free society should tolerate, as an intimate part of rural life, as a source of employment and as the most effective form of conservation. Those arguments do not seem to have weighed with the majority of MPs, or Britain's predominantly urban population, and defenders of hunting should treat the view of the majority with something of the respect they rightly demand for their own case. Threats of civil disobedience are ill-judged and inappropriate.

Although today's vote will create a momentum *for abolition, space has* been created for a longer debate during which a thoughtful defence of hunting can be rehearsed. Supporters of hunting owe Tony Blair a small, but significant, debt. Although they may curse his skill as an Opposition Leader, which led to a Commons majority against them, they should acknowledge the wisdom he has shown as Prime Minister in managing that majority to allow hunt supporters a longer opportunity to be heard.

Given time, the case for hunting can make converts. *Former officers* in the *League* Against Cruel Sports, including a past executive director, James Barrington, resigned from the organisation because close engagement with argument convinced them that a ban on foxhunting would not be in the interest of foxes. Hunting kills only a small proportion of the number of foxes culled every year, fewer than those controlled by the arguably crueller methods of digging out and of shooting which more often maims than kills. If hunting were banned the number of foxes and deer killed would probably rise and some landowners may be tempted to use the unarguably crueller methods of gassing or poisoning. The recent mass culling of stags in the Quantocks is a portent of what may await the fox population.

The deployment of logic by supporters of hunting should be matched by a sensitivity to the concerns of their honest opponents. The pro-hunting lobby, rightly, asks for urban Britain to respect the settled habits of countrymen, but those who hunt should appreciate the strength of genuine revulsion *inspired by some of hunting's excesses.* A willingness to compromise, to explore how habits might be changed and legislation framed in the best interests of animal and man, may lead to a better Bill in a future session. Today strong feelings will have an outlet. In the months to come there must be hard thinking from open minds.

HAGUE'S GENDER GAP

Women need a greater say in the Tory party

The hats may have gone but the prejudices live on. At the Conservative Women's Conference yesterday, there was at best ambivalence *about getting* more of their ranks into Parliament. The younger ones are keen. But many older women, who dominate Tory selection committees, do not seem to care what sex their candidate is, as long as he has a wife, good taste in ties and a sonorous voice.

All had to face the fact that the Tories returned as few women at the last election as they did in 1931, the year the conference first met; and that while women have increased their representation in every other area of society, in the Conservative Party they have not. If it were a private club, this might not matter. But it is an institution which seeks support from the public; and it must wonder if women voters, who make up 52 per cent of the electorate, like what they see.

While women used to vote Tory in far greater numbers than men (mainly because they live longer, and the old are more conservative), the "gender gap" snapped shut on May 1. Labour made inroads particularly with young women, who preferred Labour to the *Tories* by a margin of 29 points, compared with a 15-point lead among men of the same age.

If women had always voted the same way as men, Britain would have had many more Labour governments. The gender gap is therefore crucial to the Tories. Yet there was little sign from members attending yesterday that the party understands what needs to be done to bring women back. Quotas were derided as patronising: that may be so but, as Labour proved, a single election in which some women are "patronised" will have substantial long-term effects in female representation. The women's conference will continue after the party reforms, even though it serves to emphasise their separation from the mainstream. No place will be reserved for a women's representative on the party's management board where the real business will be done. Meanwhile, the only member who dared to bring a child was hissed when she pointed out how useful a crèche would have been.

More than two thirds of women work, and the proportion is rising fast. Although women share many political concerns equally with men, there are others that affect them disproportionately. Labour's childcare plans, for instance, are a sensible, unideological and economically efficient policy that will go down particularly well with mothers. So why, in 18 years, did the Conservatives do so little? Partly because of their ambivalence about working women; but also because women play such a small role in the counsels of their party.

Even now, William Hague's kitchen cabinet is entirely male. Just one woman, Gillian Shephard, sits in the Shadow Cabinet, and she seems keen to bow out. Action is needed if the Tories are to woo women back.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Candidate choice blights the Tories

From Mr John de Courcy Ling

Sir, The letters (November 25) of Mrs Georgiana Hibberd and Mr Chris Metz from Winchester deserve the attention of Lord Freeman, the recently appointed vice-chairman in charge of parliamentary candidates at Conservative Central Office.

Mrs Hibberd says that: "It is all very well for a right-wing party, in cahoots with local reactionaries, to find seats for their placemen." The problem is not confined to Winchester. Since Margaret Thatcher replaced Edward Heath as party leader in early 1976 there was a concerted movement at Central Office to find a different kind of candidate from hitherto.

Business and the City were preferred to public service and the professions. A series of party vice-chairmen from 1976 until the elections of May 1997 sought to fill the Conservative benches in Parliament with young men and women who were theoretically to live up to the somewhat idiosyncratic image of Margaret Thatcher.

In Winchester in 1977, the candidate selected was an able businessman specialising in contacts in the Arab world. By 1992, however, his conduct was causing such concern that he was suspended from the House of Commons and disowned by the party. His successor, described by Mrs Hibberd not altogether inaccurately, as "an ambitious Scot in need of a safe seat", seemed to fit the pattern of someone whose interests were arguably more commercial than pastoral.

The consequence of this sadly misguided selection policy is that Conservative seats in the House of Commons and in the European Parliament (but not fortunately in local government) are now all too frequently filled by hard-nosed individuals more interested in private profit than service to society. The near fatal crisis in the Conservative Party is not so much one of policies but of personnel.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN de COURCY LING,
Lamb House,
Bladon, Woodstock, Oxfordshire.
November 25.

Winchester result

From Mr P. J. V. Tuke

Sir, When visiting the Winchester constituency last week (letters, November 22 and 25), I found there was a warm appreciation for the way in which the Liberal Democrats are providing constructive opposition in Parliament.

Many recognise that vigorous opposition to that with which you disagree and fighting for what you feel strongly about is so much more effective if you are prepared to support measures with which you broadly agree. It is heartening that the electorate has grown tired of adversarial politics.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TUKE (Chairman,
Harting Liberal Democrats),
Mill Stream, East Harting,
Petersfield, Hampshire.
November 25.

From Ms Suzanne Avery

Sir, It is ridiculous to claim (letter, November 25) that the Conservative candidate's defeat in the Winchester by-election was due to the party's Euroscepticism: the Euro Conservative candidate polled a mere 40 votes.

Yours faithfully,
SUZANNE AVERY,
The Orchard,
Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire.
November 25.

Radio for children

From Mr Stephen Keeler

Sir, Last spring I submitted an unsolicited radio adaptation of Allan Ahlberg's *The Better Brown Stories* — a minor modern classic of children's literature. A fortnight ago I received a bittersweet letter from the radio drama producer to whom I submitted the scripts, saying that she "did thoroughly enjoy reading" them and that "they adapt very well indeed for radio. Our reader recommended the script to me wholeheartedly."

Then comes a paragraph, which must be as painful for the producer as for me, beginning with the word "Unhappily". It tells me that my scripts will not be developed because "the new Commissioning Editors have decided that it is no longer their wish in the new schedule to broadcast for children on Radio 4".

Raymond Snoddy ("The BBC is letting the children down", Media Times, November 21) rightly argues that it ought not to be beyond the corporation's creative talent to devise radio programmes which would attract a respectable audience of children.

The BBC, as a public service, has another duty: to nurture the talents of writers of original radio drama for children and of adaptations from children's literature.

A BBC Radio 4 without any programming for children will be the poorer: without children's drama it will effectively and swiftly kill off a whole sector of creative endeavour.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN KEELER,
121 Broad Lane,
Hampton, Middlesex.
November 23.

Business letters, page 31

Red in tooth and claw runs the great foxhunting debate

From Mr James McFarlane

Sir, You report today that more than two thirds of the general public oppose hunting with dogs (see also letters, November 26). True or not, it is an irrelevance.

The general public is not damaged by hunting: nobody is compelled to hunt, nor are the rights of those who, like me, don't hunt, infringed by those who do. It is hard to see what most people know of the matter or how it is their business to intervene.

We are on dangerous ground if we begin to think that the views of casual majorities should be decisive in the framing of criminal legislation. Opinion polls will show that a majority of the general public disapproves of a great many things, including the Conservative Party, homosexual acts, tripe and black pudding, smoking, immigration, Radio 3 and, very likely, the colour of my front door.

If all these, and more, are to be made criminal because a majority doesn't like them, we shall all be in jail before long.

Yours very truly,
JAMES McFARLANE,
24 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire.
james@jimmimac.demon.co.uk
November 27.

From Mr Dan Norris,
MP for Wansdyke (Labour)

Sir, The hunting debate is often painted as pitting town against country: urban dwellers don't understand country ways, the argument goes, and resistance to hunting is focused in towns and cities. As a representative of a semi-rural constituency in northeast Somerset this viewpoint has long intrigued me.

Over 80 per cent of the 700 letters I've received about hunting over the past months have been sent by constituents urging me to back Michael Foster's Bill this Friday. Yet semi-rural Wansdyke includes parts of Bristol, as well as the towns of Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Radstock; my constituents are divided roughly equally between "urban" and "rural" areas.

Having analysed the sources of these letters I am interested to discover that opposition to hunting with dogs is even greater in the rural parts of this constituency than in the towns. Those who portray opposition to hunting as an invasion of the countryside by unsympathetic townies would do well to note that in Somerset at least, this argument, appears invalid.

Yours faithfully,
DAN NORRIS,
House of Commons.
November 25.

From Mr Steven Parker

Sir, Our farming cousins' unwillingness to accept townie intervention in the great hunting debate is matched only by their willingness to accept townie subvention via EU subsidies.

Is it not time to put an end to this cruel and unnecessary pursuit of my income?

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN PARKER,
5 The Meadway,
Blackheath, SE3.
November 27.

From the Chairman of the Union of Country Sports Workers

Sir, Michael Foster's Bill threatens 15,200 jobs to which there may prove to be no alternatives in the countryside. This union, which represents hunting employees and gamekeepers, ghillies and others whose jobs are the next target for the advancing animal rights agenda, hopes that the Commons will reject it.

Anti-hunting campaigners glibly argue that recreational riding and draghunting will save the jobs. The Masters of Draghounds Association disagrees. Hunts cannot unilaterally switch to draghunting. Only farmers can decide who has a good enough reason to ride across their land, and for most farmers, sport riding without pest control and other services from hunts is not attractive. Riding schools and other recreational riding businesses are already in recession.

We do not say that employment considerations should overrule animal welfare. Like two former chiefs of the League Against Cruel Sports, we believe that wildlife such as foxes will be worse off after a hunting ban, not better off, because less regulated pest-control methods will be used instead.

It would be unforgivable for MPs to vote 15,000 jobs away in a mistaken gesture on animal welfare. Coming just days after the Prime Minister went to Luxembourg to persuade other European governments to protect jobs more zealously, it would be ironic, too.

Yours sincerely,
J. FRETWELL,
Chairman,
Union of Country Sports Workers,
PO Box 43, Towcester,
Northamptonshire NN12 7ZB.
November 25.

From Mr Geoff Greaves

Sir, Mr Neil Moore (letter, November 26) objects to those who disapprove of something imposing their views through legislation, in this case to stop hunting animals with hounds. "An arrogant, even totalitarian attitude," he says.

I've no doubt that if the moral majority had not had their democratic way in the past, a cruel minority would have continued with cockfighting, bearbaiting or even sending children up chimneys.

These reforms cost jobs and ended traditions too. Fortunately Parliament usually reflects public opinion — albeit sometimes, as in this case, belatedly.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF GREAVES,
16 Causewayhead,
Penzance, Cornwall.
November 26.

From Mrs Anstice Baring

Sir, I believe that Michael Foster, sponsor of the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is a coarse fisherman. I've never wanted to stop anyone fishing, but if his Bill becomes law, does he think his own sport will remain immune?

Yours truly,
ANSTICE BARING,
Ravenscourt House,
20 Ravenscourt Park, W6.
November 26.

From Mr R. M. Stephenson

Sir, Although many would agree with Lord Renton (letter, November 26) *that the actual cause of death in fox*hunting is rather more humane than other means, it is the chase prior to the fox's death which is the cruellest part of the hunt. By the time the hounds have caught the fox it may have had to endure an exhausting and wholly un*natural flight of many miles.*

If, as they claim, many foxhunters are primarily concerned with the quickest and least cruel form of culling they could perhaps donate the money spent on keeping dogs, horses, etc. to research into an effective poison for foxes.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
MATTHEW STEPHENSON,
31 Leigham Hall,
Leigham Avenue, SW16.
m.stephenson@nmsi.ac.uk
November 26.

From Mrs Nicola Scurr

Sir, The only reason people hunt foxes with dogs is for the fun of it.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLA SCURR,
5 Balniel Gate, SW1.
November 26.

Albanian 'purge'

From Mr Mark Almond and Mr Beytullah Destani

Sir, Your report (World in Brief, November 20, later editions) that Albanian diplomats had been refused asylum in this country by the Foreign Office reflects official indifference to Albanian realities since the change of regime there in July.

Unfortunately, news of the purge of the Civil Service and judiciary as well as the Albanian diplomatic service by *the victorious former Communist Party*, now renamed the Socialist Party, has not filtered out to the outside world. More than 3,000 people have been dismissed.

What is still more shocking about this purge is that its tentacles have drawn in widely respected and unpolitical scholars like Dr Nerim Basha, Director of the Albanian National Library, Dr Luan Malltezi, Director of the Albanian National Archives, and Dr Ferid Hudhri, Director of the Department of Art of the Albanian Academy of Arts, who have been dismissed from their posts.

Regrettably, neither Western embassies nor those human rights groups which were so prominent in criticising the anti-communist interregnum in Albania (1992-97) seem to have taken any notice of these developments.

On November 28 it will be 85 years since Albania gained her independence from the Turks. It would be tragic if, after all the vicissitudes of the 20th century, Albania had returned to the grip of a party whose leaders seem to have forgotten nothing and learned nothing from the darkest period of Albanian history.

Yours faithfully,
MARK ALMOND
(Chairman),
BEYTULLAH DESTANI,
The British Helsinki
Human Rights Group,
22 St Margaret's Road, Oxford.
November 25.

New housebuilding

From Councillor Richard Appleton

Sir, There is a gaping hole in the planning system which contributes to the pressure to use more countryside for building new houses (letters, November 20). As a (relatively new) local councillor engaged in the review of our local plan, I am struck by a council's inability to insist on a minimum density for new developments.

If the council allocates a site for housing, suggesting that it would be suitable for 50 houses, a developer can propose a development of only 30 houses. The council is powerless to prevent this (in sharp contrast to its powers to prevent developments of an excessive density compared to the surrounding area). Sooner or later, it will have to find another site to make up the shortfall.

With two or three-bedroom houses being the greatest housing need in the South East, and developers keenest on building larger detached homes, it is increasingly difficult for councils to make the best use of sites already designated, including those within the existing settlement boundary.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD APPLETON,
14 Star Post Road, Camberley, Surrey.
appleton_richard@jpmorgan.com
November 26.

From Mrs Jennifer Galton-Fenzi

Sir, In view of the impending countrywide housebuilding programme on greenfield sites, is it perhaps time we found new words for "to develop" and "developer"? The rather positive and desirable connotations of these expressions seem increasingly at odds with the reality.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER GALTON-FENZI,
Post Cottage,
Littlehempston, Totnes, Devon.
November 22.

Loans for priests

From Mrs Kathleen M. Johnson

Sir, If, as reported on November 25, the Church of England is considering plans to repay student loans taken out by its newly ordained priests, perhaps they should think back a bit.

Twenty-six years ago, when my husband was accepted for training for *the Anglican priesthood,* we were advised by the diocesan secretary to sell our house and be prepared for all the proceeds to go towards the support of me and our baby during the three years of his training. This is exactly what happened and my husband was ordained utterly broke but with no debts. We started his first job as curate on family income support.

Now, as retirement looms nearer, the prospect of leaving the security of a tied house and paying rent or starting up a mortgage is somewhat daunting. Would the Church Commissioners like to repay our deficit?

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN M. JOHNSON,
Chevening Rectory, Homedean Road,
Chipstead, Sevenoaks, Kent.
November 25.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Long road home

From Mr James Ingram

Sir, Mr William Fisher (letter, November 25) is mistaken when he says that the street number and postcode alone will tell a postman the exact destination of a letter.

I have recently written some software to generate complete addresses from that information, and there are many postcodes which do not represent just a single street — therefore a street number and a postcode may still refer to more than one property (albeit rarely).

Yours,
JAMES INGRAM,
36c Deronda Road, SE24.
james@one-ten.com
November 25.

From Mrs Poppet Codrington

Sir, Bully for Mr William Fisher, who can put 19 W9 1AZ on his letters.

Whilst converting this barn our address was The Caravan with three whippets, *Down the muddy track past* the back drive of Lower Lyde Farm House. No problems with deliveries and probably faster than Cod. HR1 3AQ.

Yours faithfully,
POPPET CODRINGTON,
Lyde Barn,
Lower Lyde,
Hereford, Herefordshire HR1 3AQ.
November 25.

Noises off

From Mr Thom Petty

Sir, Judy Fitton (letter, November 26) may like to know that we have just performed Arnold's *Grand, Grand Overture*, complete with the school's *Senior Management Sweeper* Ensemble.

During a rehearsal we were approached by an irate school cleaner demanding the immediate return of his vacuum machine.

Yours faithfully,
THOM PETTY
(Principal, organ section),
King's School,
Cumberland Street,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.
November 26.

From Mr A. C. Lewin

Sir, Judging from the level of audience participation I have noticed at recent concerts, perhaps one of our celebrated composers could be encouraged to write a Concerto for Ear, Nose and Throat.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN LEWIN,
3 Bourne End Road,
Northwood, Middlesex.
November 26.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 27: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Radley College and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire (Mr Hugo Brunner), the Chairman of Radley College Council (Mr Michael Melluish) and the Warden (Mr Richard Morgan).

Her Majesty opened Queen's Court science block and, with His Royal Highness, toured the College, attended a Service in the Chapel and joined the Warden, masters and boys for Lunch in Hall.

Her Majesty this afternoon visited Berinsfield, Oxfordshire, and was received by the Chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council (Councillor Kenneth Hall).

The Queen visited Berinsfield Health Centre, was received by the Senior Partner (Dr Timothy Huins) and met other doctors, health visitors, mothers and babies.

Her Majesty later visited Mount Farm Community Education Centre, Berinsfield, was received by the Community Education Organiser (Mr Stephen Reader) and met students and tutors.

The Queen afterwards visited Berinsfield County Primary School and was received by the Chairman of Governors (Ms Sheila Croft) and the Headteacher (Mr Michael Taylor).

Her Majesty toured the School, meeting Governors, teachers and children.

Her Majesty later visited Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield, was received by the Manager (Ms Dinah Boulton) and watched a range of sports activities.

Her Majesty subsequently visited St Mary and St Berin Church, Berinsfield, and was received by the Vicar (the Reverend Andrew Tawn).

In the Church Hall The Queen met representatives from the Church and the community of Berinsfield.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited RM plc, Milton Park, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited Oxford Asymmetry, Milton Park.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 27: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning visited Her Majesty's Prison Holloway, Parkhurst Road, London N7.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Sense (the National Deafblind and Rubella Association), afterwards visited a Sense shop at 57 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7.

The Princess Royal this afternoon attended the Starehe Endowment Fund (UK) Reception at the Goring Hotel, Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes, afterwards attended the Annual General Meeting at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1.

CLARENCE HOUSE

November 27: Members of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy, was present this evening at a Reception given by the Franco-British Society at St James's Palace.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston, the Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 27: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Honorary President, the Somme Association, this afternoon received Dr Ian Adamson (Chairman) and Mr David Campbell (Secretary/Managing Director).

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Asthma Campaign, attended a musical evening at Drapers' Hall, London EC1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

November 27: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon opened the Arthur Wilson Day Centre of BEN-Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund in Humber Road, Coventry, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Her Royal Highness later opened Helen Ley Court for the Helen Ley Charitable Trust in Bericote Road, Leamington Spa, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire (Mr Martin Dunne).

Birthdays today

Mr Kriss Akabusi, athlete, 39; Miss Fiona Armstrong, broadcaster, 41; Sir Gordon Beveridge, former Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast, 64; Lady Bottomley, 91; Vice-Admiral Sir David Brown, 70; Mr Geoffrey Clarke, artist and sculptor, 73; Sir David Croom-Johnson, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 83; Mr Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, 44; Mr F.C.H. du Preez, former rugby player, 62; Mr Terence Frisby, playwright, actor and producer, 65; Mr Tony Garrett, director of campaigning and chief agent, Conservative Central Office, 45; the Right Rev M.G. Hare Duke, former Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, 72; Lord Macdonald, 50; Mr Keith Miller, former cricketer, 78; General Sir David Mostyn, 69; Miss Dervla Murphy, author, 66; Sir Idris Pearce, chartered surveyor, 64; Sir Lewis Robertson, industrialist, 75; the Right Rev Patrick Rodger, former Bishop of Oxford, 77; Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Ross, 58; Sir Saxon Tate, former chairman, London Futures and Options Exchange, 66; Sir Raymond Whitney, MP, 67.

Memorial services

Sir Henry Peat

Mr Michael Peat, Keeper of the Privy Purse, Treasurer to The Queen and Receiver-General of the Duchy of Lancaster, was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Henry Peat, chartered accountant and former Auditor to The Queen's Privy Purse, held yesterday at St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, London EC4. The Rev John Paul officiated. Mr Robin Peat and Mr Richard Peat, sons, read the lessons. Mr John Philip gave an address. Among others present were:

Miss Gillian Peat (daughter), Mrs Robin Peat (daughter-in-law), Mr Harry Peat, Miss Laura Peat, Mr and Mrs Christian Corgier (grandchildren), Sir Gerrard Peat, Major Sir Shane Blewitt, Sir John Grenside, Sir Alan Hardcastle, Mr Colin Sharman (senior partner, KPMG) and Mrs Sharman, Mr Rupert Hambro, Mr T A Tansley, Mr Peter Humpage, Mr Henry Sandford and Mr Jerome Freedman (representing CABA) and many other friends and colleagues.

Mr Alec Muir

The High Sheriff of Durham City attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Alec Andrew Muir, former Chief Constable of Durham, held yesterday in Durham Cathedral. Canon Dr Martin Kitchen officiated, assisted by Canon Simon Hoare, the Rev Michael Hampel, Precentor, and the Rev John Scorer, Durham Constabulary's senior chaplain.

Mr Tom Muir, son, and Mr Derek Harrison, President of the National Association of Retired Police Officers, read the lessons. Mr Hugh Belenkin gave a reading and Mr Eddy Marchant, Deputy Chief Constable of Durham, gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs Alison Fisher (daughter), Mr Julian Farr (stepson), Mrs Katherine Odgers (stepdaughter), Lord Barnard, Councillor Mr Joe Knox, Councillor Mr Morris Nicholls, Mr Alan Miller, Mr David Blakey, Mr Alan Brown, Mr Alec Rennie, Mr Robert Dobson, Mr Thomas Farmer, Mr Dennis Gatiss, Mr Fred Wilson and many other friends and former colleagues.

Mr Derek Salberg

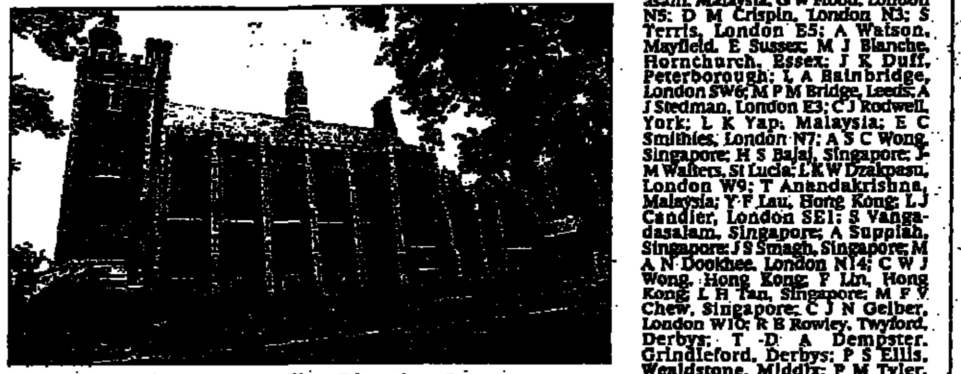
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Derek Salberg, Director of the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, 1936-77, was held yesterday in Birmingham Cathedral. The Provost of Birmingham officiated.

Miss Fenella Fielding and Mr Wyn Calvin gave readings. Miss Rosemary Leach and Mr Mike Smith, Chairman of Warwickshire County Cricket Club, paid tribute. Mr Peter Tod, Director of the Birmingham Hippodrome, gave an address.

Margaret Carmichael (née MacKellar)

A service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Margaret Carmichael will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 1997, at 1pm at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, London SW1. All are welcome. To assist with seating and catering please reply as soon as possible to Helen Housley, Hawkwood, Bury Road, London E4 7QL, phone 0181 529 6500 or fax 0171 247 4989.

Calls to the Bar



The Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn

The following students were called to the Bar yesterday for this Michaelmas Term:

Lincoln's Inn

M-K Ghumman, London N5; R J Nijabat, London E17; F Huq, Dhaka, Bangladesh; G G Ponnambalam, Colombo; Tan Teck Kiong, Malacca, Malaysia; Chong Chi On, Sabah, Malaysia; S M Veerasamy, Negara Brunei Darussalam; E Lewis, Selangor, Malaysia; J O'Neill, Douglas, Isle of Man; R Cheung Man To, Hong Kong; M H Khan, Manikgonj, Bangladesh; K Sivasubramaniam, Colombo; M A Chaudhry, Kotli Azad, Kashmir, Pakistan; A Kee Chuin Liang, London W1; T H Chaudhry, Birmingham; A S Khan, Ewell, Surrey; O Sadat, Dhaka, Bangladesh; T Dubb, Birmingham; Lau Wai Hin, Hong Kong; Lim Ping, London NW8; D A Hyde, London SW5; R K Young, London NW1; T A Schinis, Limassol; G Tan Wei Mann, Selangor, Malaysia; E Chin Pheik Lin, Selangor, Malaysia; V J Sutherland, Alnwick, Northd; L Borthwick, Northampton; M Saral, Huddersfield; S K Joshi, Hounslow, Middlx; J Adaikalasamy, Singapore; H Haron, Selangor, Malaysia; R Husain-Naviatti, Rotherham; G Bonham-Carter, Haddenham, Bucks; A A Jafar, Ilford, Essex; A H Burney, Karachi; H W Fairey, New Plymouth, New Zealand; I Bonage, Colchester, Essex; A F V Stagl, London W14; J B Rowley, Lytham, Lancs; G S Garcha, Warley, W Midlands; A S Kaliral, Edgbaston, Birmingham; H Dato H J Zaidan, Kuala Lumpur; B Korpal, Nottingham; B P S Gandham, Great Barr, Birmingham; Q M Binns, St George, Bermuda; F I C Obonbamu, Wembley, Middlx; Tan Tee Kay, Penang, Malaysia; J K Chappell, London NW3; J K Marimuthu, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia; Tee Ling Zhi, Singapore; I Shafiq, Lahore; C A Erotokritou, Nicosia; E Symeonidou, Nicosia; N Bahra, Leicester; S L Sherafat Mansoori, London N16; J B Michaelson, London NW3; I N Ishak, Johor, Malaysia; Low Keng Siong, Kuala Lumpur; Dr D W Cottam, Grange over Sands, Cumbria; A Tsirides, Limassol, Cyprus; C C Tselingas, Nicosia; Khoo Kay Kwan, Operak, Malaysia; M J R Latham, Presot, Merseyside; S E Phipps, Birkenhead; R V Saga, Taipei, Taiwan; M R Angus, Salverton, Devon; A T Shenyuz, London N21; I M Cox, Nassau, Bahamas; P Pannirselvam, Singapore; S V Salvi, Bolton; Y Pistilas, Limassol; Ng Su Hing, Perak, Malaysia; N S L De Silva, London SW7; M Leong Nu-Yen, Singapore; Loo Peh Fern, Selangor, Malaysia; A M Grant, London N3; H Singh, Singapore; Sim Sok Nee, Selangor, Malaysia; N S Kassim, Brunei; N R Harrison, Brighouse, Yorks; R D Thorpe, Bewdley, Worcs; A Choo Pao Lin, Kuala Lumpur; S Kathriarachi, London NW9; C J Marsh, Ashton-under-Lyne; D N Lewis, Liverpool; M Marimuthu, Kuala Lumpur; L K Blackband, Leeds; K B Anderson, Parbold, Lancs; D Ramachandran, Selangor, Malaysia; E Chuang Twn Phey, Singapore; A J A Child, Ashtead, Surrey; T S Tilley, London SE16; N A Barnett, Southampton; J Razzaque, Khulna, Bangladesh; A R Hariri, Pahang, Malaysia; A Joof, Banjul, Gambia; Chan Chee Choong, Selangor, Malaysia; C S M Leong, Selangor, Malaysia; Owen Heng Su Liu, Taipei, Taiwan; H Shamsuddin, Selangor, Malaysia; A Adedeji, Kenley, Surrey; Ko Hiu Fung, Hong Kong; I M Anuar, Selangor, Malaysia; N H Dooher, Leicester; Yeo Chiew Pin, Melaka, Malaysia; J R K Varley, Lower Tean, Staffs; S Hamid, Hayes, Middlx; Una Hoo, Selangor, Malaysia; D R Gething, Northwich, Ches; S T Williams, London N11; Y Siew, Kuala Lumpur; F A Sarwar, Sheffield; J Purvis, Wolverhampton; Chew Hew Wearn, Kuala Lumpur; Fong Shin Ni, Kedah, Malaysia; S V Evans, Manchester; S E Dugal, Cookhill, Warks; S Bhar, Penang, Malaysia; Tam Chee Jack, Selangor, Malaysia; J G French, Harrogate; J Chen Lim, Sarawak, Malaysia; A J Browning, Bristol; B K Surjit, Ipoh, Malaysia; S P B Anderson, Bradford; Z A Anuar, Kuala Lumpur; N Levy, Rickmansworth, Herts; M Nathani, Bramhall, Ches; W R S Prabhu, Twickenham, Middlx; A J Keve, London W13; B Selvarajan, Singapore; S Obaidullah, London NW7; M L Wadhams, Kingsthorpe, Northants; K J Barry, London SE3; Tan Lai Tee, Darul Ehsan, Malaysia; Ma Pin Yen, Selangor, Malaysia; P J Manning, Llandudno; K M T Alam, Chittagong; Nona Swee Li Chow, Kuala Lumpur; P G Philip, St Albans, Herts; Young Ai Peng, Kuala Lumpur; Chan Keng Yean, Selangor, Malaysia; S Krishnan, Selangor, Malaysia; S Nagaraw, Dahrul Ehsan, Malaysia; C Phan Pui Lin, Singapore; Wong Kee Them, Selangor, Malaysia; M Loh Yuet Meng, Selangor, Malaysia; A Choong Ching Yee, Penang, Malaysia; L A Kawa, Freetown, Sierra Leone; Wong Kwee Hoi, Kuala Lumpur; H Lim Hsien Ling, Johor, Malaysia; Teh Hong Koon, Penang, Malaysia; S A Masood, Islamabad; K Rashid, Karachi; T V M Machado, Kalubowila, Sri Lanka; F N T Sheikh, Dhaka, Bangladesh; M M R Khan, Dhaka, Bangladesh; J Jayadevan, Johor, Malaysia; N S Nabi, Dhaka, Bangladesh; P Anwar, Dhaka, Bangladesh; L Nahar, Dhaka, Bangladesh; N B Nordin, Kedah, Malaysia; E G Isaac, St Lucia, West Indies; Choi Sheung Kong, Hong Kong; J Ward-Prowse, frmr solicitor, Havant, Hants; T L Jones, frmr solicitor, Cardiff; J J Major, frmr solicitor, Kingston, Surrey; G M W Gallagher, Irish barrister, Galway; S S Wordsworth, frmr solicitor, London NW3; N P Hinton, frmr solicitor, Lower Odcombe, Somerset.

Additionally:

Kanlamuthan s/o Thiruvida Selvan, Kedah, Malaysia; M S Rajendran, Singapore; R W M Sweeting, Nassau, Bahamas; R Kahar Bador, Kuala Lumpur.

Inner Temple

M J Mulholland, Harrow, Middlx; C M de Weld-Nicholas, London SW10; R S Wells-Thorpe, London W6; S Moal, Singapore; S L Pearn, Faversham, Kent; C H Claypoole, Codford St Mary, Wilts; Chua K L, Singapore; J A Trew, London SE17; D P O'Driscoll, Isleworth, Middlx; N J Burrows, Wetherby, W Yorks; J B Rushton, Cockermouth, Cumbria; S P J Taylor, London NW4; J Middleton, Clapham, London; R E Colley, Kilburn, London; J S Balfour, France; D A Stapleton, London SW15; S E Parry, Shrewsbury; A P Willetts, Sutton Coldfield; B A Molyneux, Hove, E Sussex; A L Bailey, Hyde, Ches; J W Melvin, Richmond, London; A Blackwood Hodge, Bromley, Kent; S J Kirsop, Amersham, Bucks; I D Sheridan, London N10; G L W Haynes, Falmouth; A Petasis, Cyprus; H L Greatorex, Preston, Lancs; R H Namakula, Borehamwood, Herts; A Wright, Lichfield, Staffs; P J B Taylor, Itchenor, W Sussex; A C Newton, Sidmouth, Devon; V M Sayers, St Saviour, Jersey; Y E Port, London N3; L M Lan Loh, Selangor, Malaysia; P D Squire, London W12; S Wai Chuen Ho, Hong Kong; R C Spinks, Cambridge; A Bhatia, Hounslow, Middlx; T L Robinson, Oxford; Z Angelides, Oxford; A L Lewis, Llangynidr, Powys; O Neocleous, Cyprus; S G Randall, Woking, Surrey; S Lindsey, London SE11; E B Stapleton, London W13; C P Saunders, London N1; M T Gallagher, Chiseldon, Wilts; J F Harrington, London E17; S J Bishop, Birmingham; M C Burke, London SE1; J C Gretton, Disley, Ches; C M Smith, Redruth, Cornwall; H J Parry, London SW15; A C Bennett, Egham, Surrey; A K Forgaard, Bradley Green, Worcs; D J Keating, London EC4; P Koul, North Ferriby, E Yorks; S Ahmed, London SE15; S J Wells, London NW4; R Teck-Soon Lee, Malaysia; C Fesel, London E7; W G Robinson, Antigua, West Indies; E B Jones, Winchester, Hants; G S Morris, London NW3; D K Janney, Tenterden, Kent.

In Absentia

Lee A Yen-Yen, Malaysia; Lim Tek Soon, Singapore; Tsang K Lai, Hong Kong; Chan Ka Sing L, Hong Kong; Lim W Chun, Malaysia; Sin C Mei Lan, Malaysia; Yeung S Kwong, Hong Kong; D J Singh Panaech, Singapore.

Middle Temple

F Ghosh, London NW2; P Galgani, London SW3; J W Nicholls, London N4; J Victor-Mazeli, Palmers Green, Middlx; M D Arthur, London NW6; T E Dilks, London EC4; C J Forman, Horsham, W Sussex; K W Chew, Singapore; S S S Thapa, London W8; M K S Leong, Singapore; K Scott, Enfield, Middlx; L K Osofsky, Bethesda, Maryland; N W Barber, Charlton, Hants; A C David, London E15; S L Langton, Harpsden, Oxon; S E Wallis, St Peter Port, Guernsey; M K Bhamra, Redbridge, Essex; L J Skinner, Welwyn Garden City, Herts; I R Griffin, London SE1; E Gibson, Redditch, Worcs; S L Broadfoot, London N8; S L M Tse, Hong Kong; H B Parry, Bath; J E Atkins, Christow, Devon; C S K Kang, Singapore; H R Boileau, London NW6; T P McGee, Nottingham; S Ahmad, Singapore; P W Sin, Hong Kong; R N Oakeshott, London NW6; S J Meade, Kingston, Surrey; R Kumar, Malaysia; J N John, Singapore; D M Ornstein, London NW8; M R Nash, Northolt, Middlx; T C Humphrey, London SW12; Z Ismail, Malaysia; M Sikand, London NW6; H E A Maurice-Williams, London NW3; W Y W Lau, Hong Kong; T Schumacher, London W14; C Y Wong, Hong Kong; J C Dubin, London N17; D B Sunman, London E1; C M Kong, Hong Kong; S M Cort, Antigua; J R Evans, London E11; Y H Tan, Singapore; R H C Low, Singapore; M D G Brunning, London W4; J A Goswell, Croydon, Surrey; S S Powles, London W2; M Brazier, Nottingham; R R N Pezzani, Brighton; M H Friston, London E11; M Y Tan, Singapore; P M Canterbury, Kent; D K Y Low, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Y-C Law, Hong Kong; M T Joy, London W12; A L Tang, Malaysia; J N Wright, London SW11; S A Wrightson, Marbella; D A Xu, Singapore; D T K Ng, Singapore; R R Doraisamy, Singapore; R C Rambridge, Crawley, W Sussex; B Wilfred, London E6; M W Y Chong, Singapore; M A L Yeoh, Malaysia; A D Harms, London E8; S Bentley, Kingston, Surrey; P A Quain, London SW4; S Khoo, Malaysia; P J Lewis, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex; M Bowler-Smith, London E10; O Plunkett, Peterborough; N Sagar, London N15; J T Dean, London SE16; K T C Marenah, Nottingham; M P McAlinden, Hove, E Sussex; A Daniel-Selvaratnam, Newport, Salop; N S Khan, London SW16; C I A Edlington, London SW5; D T S See, Singapore; S K Sunner, Solihull; N K Cheema, Hounslow, Middlx; G R Calvert-Smith, London SW13; L K Tavener, London W2; H L Short, St Albans, Herts; S J Arthur, Pendre, Powys; G M Mifsud, Gibraltar; D I Head, London NW3; B Portland, St Lucia; J M Branicki-Tolchard, Dagenham, Essex; P H M Leung, Hong Kong; S C J Wong, Hong Kong; J R Gray, London N13; P M Heneghan, London W14; S J Goodfellow, Loughton, Essex; C I Dodd, Barrow-upon-Trent; K Y Luk, Hong Kong; C-L de Alwis, London SE24; A C J Durance, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey; C O Gnanapragasam, Malaysia; G W Hood, London N5; D M Crispin, London N3; S Terris, London E5; A Watson, Mayfield, E Sussex; M J Blanche, Hornchurch, Essex; J K Duff, Peterborough; L A Bainbridge, London SW6; M P M Bridge, Leeds; A J Stedman, London E3; C J Rodwell, York; L K Yap, Malaysia; E C Smithies, London N7; A S C Wong, Singapore; H S Bajaj, Singapore; J-M Walters, St Lucia; L K W Dzakpasu, London W9; T Anandakrishna, Malaysia; Y F Lau, Hong Kong; L J Candler, London SE1; S Vangadasalam, Singapore; A Suppiah, Singapore; J S Smagh, Singapore; M A N Dookhee, London N14; C W J Wong, Hong Kong; P Lin, Hong Kong; L H Tan, Singapore; M F V Chew, Singapore; C J N Gelber, London W10; R B Rowley, Twyford, Derbys; T D A Dempster, Grindleford, Derbys; P S Ellis, Wealdstone, Middlx; P M Tyler, Manchester.

Gray's Inn

J H M Kenny, Nether Winchendon, Bucks; J L Ferguson, Nassau; G K Higgins, Liphook, Hants; Z A Shaikh, Bangladesh; R Wood, St Albans, Herts; B C Francis, Bahamas; D M Berman, Hale, Cheshire; T A Adenji, London W11; S R J Mokal, Lahore; S N Abbasi, Liverpool; C K H Khaw, Kew, Surrey; C M J Halliday, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow; S J F Alexander, London SW17; C Price, Merseyside; C A Hogan, Liverpool; L L Stoneham, Buckingham; E M W Gritt, London SE23; A R Morris, Haywards Heath, W Sussex; E J Bissett, High Wycombe, Bucks; N H Rogers, London W2; H R W Ewing, Luton, Beds; K A Blizzard, London SW16; N C Pillow, Ilkeston, Derbys; H D G Steinberg, Durham; P S Clarke, London SW13; R T S Mak, Singapore; A C Barber, London W11; C Georgiou, Cyprus; S Angelides, Cyprus; A J Epigrave, Heddington, Wilts; J T Henderson, Boston Spa, W Yorks; A Bastow, London SW1; N A C Bower, London NW3; A T Mayer, Nottingham; A J Chatterjee, Darlington; G S S Daly, Bodmin, Cornwall; D M Bridgman, Broadclyst, Devon; C M Harrison, Swindon, Wilts; R D Wald, London NW5; L Hooper, London N19; J H Rowbottom, Heaton Moor, Ches; C Whitehouse, Kenton, Middlx; J M-L Cole, York; N M Woodhouse, Portsmouth; R I Fala, Ditton, Kent; N D Croom, London SW18; S Z Kasim, Malaysia; A S A Ghani, Malaysia; S A Ivill, Bishopstoke, Hants; S Moses, London NW6; R I Miles, London SE3; E Wilks, Birmingham; J A Gould, Leamington Spa; C G L James, Swansea; A Abdullah, Malaysia; E V Heptonstall, York; A R V Selby, Hove, E Sussex; S K M Lui, Hong Kong; B C Darwell-Smith, London SW12; L M Taylor, Southend-on-Sea, Essex; S Murray, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh; G M Rimer, London NW3; K A Hope, Merseyside; S B Meek, Hertford; S R Jones, Cardiff; A Charalambous, Cyprus; H J Edmondson, Barry, S Glam; E McGirr, Herne Bay, Kent; A F Ward, London SW12; A M Stephenson, Withnell, Lancs; D M A Renton, London SW15; N J Evans, Pontaman, Rhydaman, Carm; J D M Cox, Bath; S Sandhu, Southall, Middlx; S Lambe, East Ilsley, Berks; S J Record, London SW11; K Waite, London SW15; N S Collings, St Lawrence, Jersey; C J Patterson, Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire; M F Kelly, Kislingbury, Northamptonshire; S J Pettinger, Preston; T A Bond, London SW7; J W D Drabble, Fishergate, W Sussex; N Blake, Cambridge; B Hussain, London EC2; K E Hollyoak, Davenham, Ches; A L Short, Huddersfield; J Clemens, Loughton, Essex; S J Biggs, Watford, Hertfordshire; S A Barrett-Brown, Broseley, Salop; B K Sidhu, London W10; L Zage, Pinner, Middlx; P F Clapton, Plympton, Devon; R J N Morgan, Kew, Richmond, Surrey; Kwok-Chun Chan, Hong Kong; P N Pooran, Trinidad; T A A A Ferguson, Nassau; E Llwyd, Y Bala, Gwynedd; R Lewis, Nefyn, Gwynedd; G M Surman, Hong Kong; C B A Chan, Hong Kong; W L Chow, Hong Kong; M Richmond, Hong Kong; J R Moreira, St Saviour, Jersey; T P Chan, Hong Kong; M T Mayers, Kingstown, St Vincent; J S H Goh, Selangor, Malaysia; C E Pratt, Nassau; R C-L Tan, Malaysia; A L Hirst, Silsden, W Yorks; E Y D Wong, Hong Kong; C A Cleare, Nassau.

Lecture

The Bristol Society

Sir John Wills, Bt, the President of the Bristol Society, the Lord-Lieutenant of Bristol, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, the High Sheriff of Bristol, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol, the Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers and the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Initiative were present at a lecture delivered to the Society by the High Commissioner of Canada, Mr Roy MacLaren, PC, at the Council House last night.

Mr St John Hartnell, Chairman of the Society, presided and Jennifer Bryant-Pearson, JBP Associates Ltd, gave a vote of thanks. JBP Associates Ltd hosted a supper afterwards.

Heckmondwike Grammar School

Former pupils of Heckmondwike Grammar School are invited to contact the school for details of the 1998 Centenary Year celebrations. Tel 01924 402202, fax 01924 411345.

Service dinners

The Royal Dragoon Guards

The annual regimental dinner of The Royal Dragoon Guards was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Lieutenant General Sir Anthony Mullens, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

Movement Control Officers' Club

Brigadier R.E. Ratazzi, president, and members of the Movement Control Officers' Club held their annual dinner last night at the Union Jack Club. Colonel S.H. Spackman, chairman, presided.

Dinners

Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce

Lord Clinton-Davis, Minister for Trade, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner of the Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce held last night at the Dorchester hotel. Mr James G. Davis, chairman of the chamber, was the host. the Danish Ambassador and Mme Lønsmann Poulsen were among the guests.

Caledonian Club

Lord Lang of Monkton was the principal guest at the St Andrew's Day dinner held at the Caledonian Club last night. Lord Ramsay, president, was in the chair, and the Right Rev Alexander McDonald, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was among those present.

Glaziers' Company

Mr Geoffrey Bond, Master of the Glaziers' Company, assisted by Mr George Cracknell, Upper Warden, and Mr Richard Stone, Renter Warden, presented the Glaziers' Award for Community Service to Cadet Regimental Sergeant-Major J. Cooper of 104 Detachment Irish Guards of the South East London ACF at the installation dinner held last night at Glaziers' Hall. The Master, Professor Sir Michael Bond of Glasgow University, Past Master John Vartan and Sir Geoffrey Dear were the speakers. Among others present were:

The Mayor of Southwark, the Bishop of Southwell, Lord Janner of Braunstone, QC, the Provost of Southwark, Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company, the Master of the Scientific Instrument Makers' Company and the Master of the Launderers' Company.

Forum UK

Dr Rosalind Miles was the principal speaker at Forum UK's annual dinner held last night at Claridge's. Baroness Denton of Wakefield, founder president, and Ms Geraldine Sharpe-Newton, chairman, also spoke.

Insolvency Lawyers' Association

The President of the Insolvency Lawyers' Association, Mr Graeme Jump, was host at the Association's Annual Dinner held last night at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Professor David Milman delivered an address entitled "A Study of the Operation of Transactional Avoidance Mechanisms in Corporate Insolvency Practice". Mr Barry Cryer entertained guests after dinner. Mr Brendan Guilfoyle, Mr David Sapte, Mr Phillip Sycamore, Mr Desmond Flynn and Ms Rebecca Parry were among the guests.

Sternberg Centre for Judaism

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pablo Puente, was the guest of honour at a dinner held last night at the Sternberg Centre for Judaism. Sheikh Dr Zaki Badawi spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.G. Arscott and Miss J.K. Burrage

The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr and Mrs M. Arscott, of Kingswood, Surrey, and Jo, only daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Burrage, of Ranmore Common, Surrey.

Mr R.T.I. Bell and Miss A.M. de Halpert

The engagement is announced between Rupert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Julian Bell, of Old Windsor, Berkshire, and Anna, daughter of Commodore and Mrs Jeremy de Halpert, of Froxfield Green, Hampshire.

Mr S.A.A. Bennie and Miss S.L.S. Collings

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of the late Mr Hamish Bennie and of Mrs Susan Andrew, of Winchelsea, East Sussex, and Sally, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Collings, of Thruxton, Herefordshire.

Dr J.P. Diver and Dr S.C.B. Fitzpatrick

The engagement is announced between Joe, only son of the late Mr John Joseph Diver and Mrs Aline Simons, of Thurcroft, South Yorkshire, and Sally, youngest daughter of the late Mr Ivor Fitzpatrick and Mrs Maureen Fitzpatrick, of Pollokshields, Glasgow.

Mr M.G. Duncan and Miss G.M.R. Anderson

The engagement is announced between Martin George, younger son of Mrs B.M. Duncan and the late Dr B.M. Duncan, MD, of Omagh, Co Tyrone, and Georgina Mary Russell, elder daughter of Lieutenant Colonel R.B. Anderson, OBE, and Mrs Anderson, of Limington House, Somerset.

Mr J.A.G. Elbourne and Mlle M.P.G.F. Lepelletier

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of the Rev and Mrs Nigel Elbourne, of Odd Rode, Cheshire, and Mathilde, daughter of M and Mme Octave Lepelletier, of Carentan, Normandy. The marriage will take place next September in Carentan.

Mr J.A. Fawcett and Miss A.E. Rhodes

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs M.H. Fawcett, of Chiswick, London, and Anna, only daughter of Commander M.H. Rhodes, OBE, RN, and Mrs M.H. Rhodes, of Hayling Island.

Mr P.J. Gallagher and Dr P.R. Veale

The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Gallagher, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Veale, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr P.M.J. Gibb and Miss B.V. Pudden

The engagement is announced between Piers, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Gibb, of Wadhurst, Sussex, and Briony, only daughter of Mr Jonathan Pudden, of Marlston, Berkshire, and Mrs Rosanne Pudden, of Shrewley, Warwickshire.

Mr J.R.L. Gilchrist and Miss S.M. Allan

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs G.R.I. Gilchrist, of Whitecraigs, Glasgow, and Susan, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J.G. Allan, of Kirklee, Glasgow.

Mr M.H. Grant and Señorita M. del Mar Diaz-Rodriguez

The engagement is announced between Marcus, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Roderick Grant, of Alderholt Park, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, and Maria del Mar, youngest daughter of Señor and Señora Francisco Diaz-Rodriguez, of Almeria, Andalucia, Spain.

Mr R.T. Martin and Miss A.M. Pryde

The engagement is announced between Roddy, son of Mr and Mrs Graham D. Martin, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, and Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Pryde, of New Territories, Hong Kong.

Mr M.A. Newman and Miss J.R. Vaughan

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr Frank Newman and the late Mrs Ann Newman, of Bromley, Kent, and Julia (Kate), daughter of the late Mr Ralph Vaughan and of Mrs Ralph Vaughan, of Crowborough, East Sussex.

Mr C.J. Perry and Miss F.C. Sword

The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Perry, of Highfield Stile, Braintree, Essex, and Favell, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sword, of Heythrop, Oxfordshire.

Marriage

Sir Douglas Falconer and Mrs C. Drew

The marriage took place on Saturday, November 22, 1997, in the Temple Church, London, of Sir Douglas Falconer and Mrs Constance Drew. The Master of the Temple, Canon Robinson, officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Brian Hutchinson, CMG. Mr Ian Falconer was best man.

A reception and luncheon was held in the Middle Temple.

Receptions

Franco-British Society

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, accompanied by Princess Alexandra, attended a reception at St James's Palace yesterday to mark her diamond anniversary, 1937-1997, as Patron of the Franco-British Society. She was received by Sir John Fretwell, chairman, and Lady Fretwell, and Mr William Beaumont, vice-chairman. The French Ambassador, the President of the Association France-Grande Bretagne, Paris, the Franco-Scottish Society and other members of Franco-British groups were among those present.

Sandford St Martin Trust

Lord Rees-Mogg presented the Sandford St Martin Trust Awards for outstanding religious programmes on television in the past two years at a reception and luncheon held yesterday at Lambeth Palace, by kind permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev and Right Hon George Leonard Carey. Gerard Mansell, CBE, received the guests. The Chairman of Judges was David Glencross, CBE.

Luncheon

Newspaper Society

The Secretary of State for the Home Department was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Newspaper Society at Bloomsbury House yesterday. Mr Chris Oakley, president of the society, was the host.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jean-Baptiste Lully, composer, Florence, 1632; William Blake, poet, engraver and painter, London, 1757; William Froude, naval architect, Dartington, Devon, 1810; Anton Rubinstein, pianist and composer, Moldavia, 1829; Aleksandr Blok, poet, St Petersburg, 1880; Nancy Mitford, novelist and biographer, London, 1904.

DEATHS: Gian Bernini, sculptor, Rome, 1680; Enrico Fermi, physicist, Nobel laureate 1938, Chicago, 1954; Richard Wright, novelist, Paris, 1960; Wilhelmina, Queen of The Netherlands 1890-1948, Het Loo, 1962; Rosalind Russell, actress, Beverly Hills, California, 1976.

The Royal Society was founded in London 1660.

Sinn Fein was founded in Dublin by Arthur Griffith, 1905.

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The poor and needy look for water and find none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord shall provide for their wants. Isaiah 41 : 17

BIRTHS

BATES - On November 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Amira (née Mujakovic) and David, a daughter, Aaliyah Emily, a sister for Natasha.

CHAMBERLAIN - On 26th November 1997, to Alison and Adrian, a daughter, Sarah Frances.

COLLETT - On November 13th, to Emily (née MacGregor-Oakford) and John, a beautiful daughter, Tabitha Jane, a baby sister for Maximilian and George.

FIELDHOUSE - On Tuesday November 25th at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, to Nikola (née Hare) and Mark, a daughter, Bethany Daisy, a sister for a delighted Ruby Tuesday.

FORD - On 20th November 1997, to Vicky (née Pollock) and Hugo, a daughter, Elizabeth Gillian.

HOLT - On 26th November, to Anna (Curry) and Simon, a daughter, Matilda.

HUBBARD - On 27th November, to Richard and Clare (née Bull), a daughter, Anna Clare, a sister for Benjamin.

MACKINTOSH - On November 1st, to Josephine (née Pinkney) and Richard, a son, Angus Joseph.

MAHE-DU VERGER - Jules. Born 2nd November to Gilles and Veronique, a brother for Valentin, at Redon Hospital, Brittany, France.

MILLS - On 26th November 1997, to Suzie (née Cottam) and Christopher, a son, Hugo Christopher, a brother for Sophie.

OZAWA - On November 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Yuka and Hideyuki, a son, Taruto, a brother for Kent.

BIRTHS

PIGNATELLI - On November 23rd, to Mary Rose and Sean, a daughter, Sophie, a sister for Clara and Ben.

WILLIAMS - On November 23rd 1997, to Gina (née Taptangco) and Rupert, a daughter, Olivia Anne.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BENNETT:CRANE - Reginald to Henrietta, 28th November 1947 at Grosvenor Chapel. Now in London SW6 6NZ.

DEATHS

BALLANTYNE - Peacefully at Hay Lodge Hospital, Peebles, on November 27th 1997 after an illness bravely borne, David Ballantyne of Peebles and formerly of The Pines, Innerleithen, beloved husband of Babs, dearly loved father and grandfather and greatly loved by his wider family. Service in Peebles Old Parish Church on Monday December 1st at 11 am to which all friends are invited, thereafter interment private. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 21 Rutland Street, Edinburgh. Grateful thanks to all nurses and family doctor.

BOWER - On 24th November 1997 peacefully at home, Mary wife of Graham Bower, Exeter House SW15. Cremation at Putney Vale on 4th December 1997 2.30 pm. Flowers for T.H. Sanders, 12-14 Medfield Street, Roehampton SW15. No letters please.

DEATHS

BARRON - Edward William (Bill) aged 64 years. Passed away at his home in Brockenhurst on 26th November 1997. Dearest Husband of Norma. Dear Dad of David and Paul. Devoted Grandad to Sarah and Kieran. Will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Bournemouth Crematorium on Wednesday, 3rd December at 1 pm. No flowers please, donations if wished to Oakhaven Hospice, c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, SO41 9DN.

BRIDGES - On 25th November 1997 Albert "Eddie" Bridges (Black Watch Officer Ret'd). Beloved husband of Marie and dearest Dad of Graham, Norma and Rosemary. Funeral (private) to St Mary's Church, Tycehurst on Tuesday 2nd December at 2pm. Flowers to M.K. Ginder Funeral Directors, 170 St Albans Road, Watford, tel: (01923) 247427.

EDEN-GREEN - Alan died suddenly and without pain on 24th November. Sadly missed by Winifred, family and many friends. Private funeral. A Memorial Celebration will be announced later. Family flowers only please. Donations to Amnesty International or The Samaritans c/o Viner & Sons Ltd, 54 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6LU.

EDWARDS - Sheila Joan, peacefully at Brighton General Hospital, Brighton on Sunday 23rd November 1997. Beloved aunt to Ruth Campbell Jenkins. Cremation at the South Chapel, Woodvale Lodge, Lewes Road, Brighton, East Sussex on Friday 5th December 1997 at 12.15 pm. At Sheila's request, the funeral will be private and there shall be no flowers.

FALK - John October 23rd aged 87, Katharine November 24th aged 86, both peacefully at home in Wiltshire. Much loved by wide circle of family and friends. Funeral and Thanksgiving for both, 2 pm Friday December 5th, All Saints Church, West Lavington, Wilts. Donations please to Dorothy House Foundation, or flowers if desired: either c/o F. Curtis & Son, 11 Portway, Warminster, Wilts. BA12 8QC. 01985 212033.

FILSON - Judith Henrietta (née Greig) of Richmond, Surrey, on 26th November. Widow of (1) Georg von Wallerstein und Marnegg (died Dachau 1938), and (2) Andrew Filson. Will be sorely missed by all her family and friends. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium at 11.30 am Friday 5th December. Donations to Age Concern please instead of flowers.

GARDENER - John Histon on November 26th at home aged 54 after a courageous fight. Beloved husband of Suzanne and daddy of James, David and Catherine. Dear son of Jean, and the late John Lawrence Gardener of Mt. Eliza, Australia. Service to be held at St Peter's Church, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London on Monday 1st December at 3pm. Donations if desired to St Christopher's Hospice, Lawrie Park Road, London SE26.

GOULD - Hilda unexpectedly on November 14th at Eastbourne. Beloved wife of the late Ernest ('Mr') and super mum, carer and best friend of Janette. Funeral Service at Christ Church, Hampstead, on December 1st at 1 pm followed by burial at Finchley. No flowers please, but donations to The Director, Sheila Taylor, Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust, 62 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 1ND.

HERBUTH - Esther Maria died, suddenly, but peacefully, in her sleep at home on 19th November 1997 aged 79. Private cremation and no flowers by her request. Donations, if desired, to The Owl Sanctuary, Crow Farm, Crow Lane, Hants BH24 3EA.

HURLEY - On 26th November 1997 Clement Woods Hurley OBE TD DL of Hexham formerly of Kirkwhelpington Northumberland - funeral private. Requiescat in Pace.

LAUNDER - Peggy Patricia, died on November 24th 1997, after a short illness. Dearly missed by all her family. Funeral on Saturday December 6th at 11 am, at St Mary's Church, Diss, Norfolk. Flowers to Rackhams Funeral Service, Stanley Road, Diss, Norfolk.

MAN - On 26th November 1997 in hospital Kao Min aged 61 years of Windsor. Much loved husband of Teresa, father of Lucas, Kaulai, Julie and Tommy, father-in-law of Mark, Tanya and Diane, grandfather of Charlotte and Edward. Buddhist Service at Slough Crematorium on Thursday 4th December at 10.30 am. Floral tributes or donations in lieu to the Stroke Association c/o H. Sargeant & Son, 61 St Leonards Road, Windsor SL4 3BX.

MARTIN - Peacefully on November 26th at her home in Norfolk after a long illness bravely borne Annette Mary aged 73 years, beloved wife of Mervyn, dearest mother of Veronica, Penelope, Antonia and Michael and a loving grandmother to her six grandchildren. Requiem Mass at St Benet's Minster, Beccles, Suffolk on Thursday December 4th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired for Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Harvey Bros., Funeral Directors, Kirby Cane, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 2PT.

McFARLANE - (Née Brennan) Patricia (Pat), widow of Peter, died at home in Coulsdon, Surrey, November 21st 1997 aged 80. She will be sadly missed by all her family, friends and neighbours. The funeral will be at 1.45 pm today Friday 28th November at St Aidan's Church, Coulsdon. "One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth".

NEILL - On November 25th 1997 peacefully in hospital Dr. Alistair Ian Mackintosh and his wife Mary Elizabeth Neill. Devoted father and mother of Alexander and Fiona. Funeral Service at the Church of St Leonard, Sunningwell, Oxford, Saturday December 6th at 11 am. Flowers to Edward Carter F/D, The Chapel, Old Cemetery, Spring Road, Abingdon.

PURVES - Roderick Hamilton (Bill) peacefully on Tuesday 25th November at Brendoncare, Froxfield, Wiltshire. Cremation private. No flowers please.

SCULLY - Ann OBE died November 23rd 1997. Much loved and forever missed mother to Clare, Nick and Peter, son-in-law Mark and grandmother to Dominic, Alex and Emily. Funeral Service at St Thomas à Becket R.C. Church, Tarporley, on Monday 1st December 1997 at 2.30 pm followed by interment in St Andrew's Churchyard, Tarvin. Donations may be sent to Clatterbridge Cancer Research Trust, Clatterbridge Road, Bebington, Wirral L63 4JY. Enquiries to T.H. Lightfoot & Sons, Funeral Directors, Tarporley. Tel: 01829 733506.

SHEEHAN - Joyously, on 25th November 1997 - her 95th birthday - Kathleen, beloved widow of Eugene, dearest mother of Michael, Paul (deceased), Vincent, Martin, Maureen, John, Patricia and Angela and much loved grandmother of their many children. Requiem Mass at St Edward's Church, 700 Finchley Road, London NW11 at 12 noon on Friday 5th December. Flowers if wished to A. France & Son, 45 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NH or donations to the St Vincent de Paul Society, Damascus House, The Ridgeway, London NW7 1EL. Tel 0181 906 1339.

SMITH - Muriel Annie, aged 84. Suddenly in London on Tuesday, 18th November. Dear sister of Beatrice Pollard and much loved aunt and great-aunt. Widow of John. Her many friends will remember her with gratitude. Service of Thanksgiving at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, Butchers Row, London, E14, on Friday 5th December at 2pm, following a private cremation. No flowers please, but donations to "The Royal Hospitals Trust" for the Chaplaincy at The Royal London Hospital may be sent to T. Cribb & Sons, Victoria House, 10 Woolwich Manor Way, Beckton, London, E6 4PA, tel: 0171-476 1855, to whom any enquiries should be directed.

ZAIGHAMI - Inayatullah died peacefully on Sunday 23rd November after a long illness in Gravesend, Kent. Writer, thinker, Speaker of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain and loving grandfather of Humaira, Omar and Usman. Your wisdom and kindness will be sorely missed by us all.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

O'REILLY - A Memorial Service for Major Philip O'Reilly, formerly Irish Guards, will be held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, at 2 pm, 18th December.

POST - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Ildiko Post will be held in Christ Church, Christ Church Street, Chelsea, London on Thursday 4th December 1997 at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations if desired may be sent to the Friends of Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BLEWITT - (Née Aylett) Veronica 28.11.96. With all our love, to a darling Wife and Mummy. William and Clare.

BOWER - Thomas Henry Whitley, Solicitor, 28th November 1984. Happy memories of Tom.

McDERMOTT - Geoffrey Lyster, 1912-1978. Diplomat and author. Beloved husband and father. 'Quiet consummation have'.

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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL IAN CAMPBELL

Major-General Ian Campbell, CBE, DSO and bar, Commandant of the Royal Australian Military College, Duntroon, 1954-57, died on October 31 aged 97. He was born in New South Wales on March 23 1900.

Ian Campbell won two DSOs in the first six months of 1941: the first at Bardia during Wavell's Western Desert offensive against the Italians, the second for the successful defence of Rethymon airfield on Crete against the overwhelming German parachute invasion of the island, which ended in the surrender of his mixed Australian and Cretan force owing to the order for the evacuation of the island never reaching him. He and his Australian men spent the next four years as prisoners of war in Germany. It was little comfort to them that Hitler never authorised another major parachute descent after the losses sustained on Crete.

At Bardia in January, Campbell was the Brigade Major of 16th Australian Infantry Brigade in the 6th Australian Division, when it was ordered to breach the strong perimeter defences of the fortress after the Italian defeat at the battle of Sidi Barrani a few weeks earlier. He was not only the principal planner of the assault, but personally carried out the vital night patrols across the desert to mark, under the very noses of the Italians, the assault troops' start-line and axis of advance to the point selected for breaching. His first DSO came as a reward for his part in the fall of the fortress and the capture of 40,000 Italian prisoners.

Three weeks later his brigade successfully repeated the operation at the much more formidable fortress of Tobruk. Then continuing the advance westwards, 6th Australian Division took Benhazi while 7th Armoured Division cut the coast road south of the city and put the rest of the Italian 10th Army "in the bag" at the decisive battle of Beda Fomm. No sooner was the Cyrenaican campaign won than 6th Australian Division was on its way to Greece and Campbell was promoted to command 2nd/1st Australian Infantry Battalion in 16th Brigade.

After the British withdrawal from the Aliakmon Line in Greece and the evacuation to Crete, Campbell was given command of the Australian, British and Greek (Cretan) troops holding the Rethymon airfield. He had about three weeks to establish a close rapport with his three Cretan battalions, the local Cretan village mayors and the people of the Rethymon district, and to organise its defences.

The main German parachute assault on Crete started early on May 20, but the landings at Rethymon did not begin until the late afternoon. These were by 1,600 paratroopers of Colonel Sturm's para regiment, many of whom were shot on their way down. Colonel Sturm and his staff were captured on landing, and during the next ten days' fighting, Campbell's men took 529 paratroop prisoners and killed another 900 of Sturm's assault force.

Things had not gone so well in the west, where the loss of Malame airfield enabled the Germans to land major reinforcements. The British evacuation was ordered on May 27, but by then Campbell's force had been cut off and orders to withdraw to the south coast did not reach him.

At 8.15am on May 30, Campbell walked down onto the airfield with a white towel on a stick and surrendered his force as the German tanks approached from the west. No one could have done more without useless loss of Australian and Cretan life. News of his second DSO reached him in a German prison camp, and the Greek Government appointed him a Knight Commander of the Royal Greek Order of the Phoenix. A plaza, an avenue and a park in Rethymon are named after him.

Ian Ross Campbell was the younger son of a Sydney barrister. He was educated at Scots College, Sydney, and the Royal Military College, Duntroon, where he won the Sword of Honour, which is now carried by his grandson.

Commissioned in 1923, he saw service in India with Royal Scots Fusiliers at Sialkot and on the North West Frontier, including the Khyber Pass. Returning to Australia in 1927, he spent seven years with the Sydney University Regiment and was appointed honorary ADC to the Governor of New South Wales. In 1936, he came to England for the first time, where he went to the Staff College, Camberley. At the outbreak of war, he was appointed Brigade Major of 16th Australian Brigade.

When he returned toAustralia after the war, his four years in prison camps affected him neither professionally nor personally. He was given a series of key military appointments: deputy adjutant general, largely responsible for demobilisation of wartime units and reorganisation of the regular force; director of the Army training component in Japan and Korea during the Korean War; commandant of the Australian Staff College; and finally Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon. In 1954 he was appointed CBE.

Retiring from the Army in 1957, he spent ten years in industry. His experience in prison camps had made him a great admirer of the Red Cross, and so for the following decade he worked on a voluntary basis as chairman of the New South Wales division of the Red Cross. And in 1994 the Returned Services League of Australia made him honorary vice-chairman for life. He remained the devoted servant of the Queen, Australia and the Australian Army.

In 1927 he married Patience Allison Russell, who died in 1961. They had one daughter. His second marriage was dissolved after two years, and in 1967 he married Irene Cardamatis, who died in 1996.

JIM MILLER

Jim Miller, industrialist, salmon fisherman and campaigner against European integration, died on November 12 aged 73. He was born on June 19, 1924.

AS WELL as being a chartered engineer and a successful company executive, Jim Miller was involved in many business associations, and spent much of his time warning colleagues that their interests would not be served by submitting to plans for European harmonisation. He was also a notable fisherman and conservationist, who did much to maintain and improve the quality of salmon fishing in the Borders.

James Derrick Miller was born into a mining family in South Yorkshire. After grammar school he won a state scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge, in 1942 to read natural sciences. However, he left Cambridge after a year and volunteered for the Navy, and served out the war doing research at the Royal Naval Signals School.

In 1945, with vast numbers of people wishing to go back up to Cambridge, he chose instead to go to Sheffield University, where he took a degree in mechanical engineering. After some placements as a graduate trainee, he moved south to the Midlands to join AIC, which was then the leading firm of management consultants in the area. He soon established a reputation for incisive and logical thinking, backed by determined implementation.

In 1963 a consultancy assignment at the Harris & Sheldon Group, a Midlands conglomerate, led to his being offered the job of chief executive at the age of 39. He subsequently became executive chairman in 1965, remaining in that job until his death. In 1981 he was in the vanguard of the management buyout movement when he and his co-directors converted Harris & Sheldon to a private company.

Miller was also chairman of two other companies, Antler plc until 1989, and Wassall plc. However, since he was an enthusiastic fisherman, the company that gave him most fun was Hardy's, the leading fishing-tackle manufacturer, which he bought in 1967, when the business was experiencing difficulties. He managed to improve Hardy's position, and today it is flourishing again. The salmon fishing which was acquired as an adjunct of the company — including the famous Junction Pool beat on the Tweed — gave great pleasure to him, his family and many guests, who included figures from the sporting and business worlds such as Jim Slater, Ian Botham and Jack Charlton.

As a passionate believer in conservation, Miller was among the leaders of the movement to buy out salmon fishing netsmen in the estuaries of the Tay and the Tweed, and he was perhaps the first to encourage the return of out-of-condition autumn fish to the rivers to conserve stocks — a practice that is becoming widespread.

He was an instinctive believer in free markets, and a supporter from the first of the Institute of Economic Affairs. The almost perfect coincidence of names of his company Harris & Sheldon with Ralph Harris and Arthur Seldon was a longstanding joke between them.

Miller was an active supporter of the Conservative Party, although from the 1960s he was a constant and vociferous opponent of British membership of the Common Market and then of the European Union. He spoke often and vehemently against what he saw as the progressive erosion of Parliament's power to govern, and was a private sponsor of many of the different groups that have campaigned against it, including the European Research Group, the Bruges Group and the European Foundation. In his last days he was pleased that the new Conservative leader — who had attended the same school in Yorkshire — had taken a firmer stand against total monetary integration.

He married Florence Elliott in 1947. She survives him, along with their daughter and two sons.

MOHAMMAD-ALI JAMALZADEH

Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh, Iranian writer and political thinker, died in Geneva on November 8, aged 105. He was born in Isfahan on January 13, 1892.

THOUGH he dismissed the claim, Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh was often described as the "father of modern Persian fiction". He certainly made a success of the genre, and his style was widely emulated. He addressed himself to the daily problems of the urban poor and the peasantry, and he avoided the use of complex phrases borrowed from the Azerbaijani Turkish of the Caucasus, prevalent among the aristocratic writers of his time, when simple Persian equivalents were available.

He was a prominent activist in the parliamentary reform movement of the first two decades of this century, despite his youth. This was largely due to the execution of his father by the penultimate, Russian-backed Kajar monarch, Shah Mohammad-Ali, in the civil war of 1905-11. Almost all his adult life he spent in Europe.

Jamalzadeh's father was the influential Shia cleric of Isfahan, Jamal-ed-Din Hamadani, who — unimaginably nowadays — sent his son to a Jesuit school in Beirut and agitated for a liberal constitution. In 1910 Jamalzadeh went to Paris, and four years later he obtained a degree in law from the University of Dijon and married his first wife, Josephine, a Swiss subject. In 1915, while several regions of neutral Iran were occupied by Russia, Britain and Ottoman Turkey, Jamalzadeh returned to the western city of Kermanshah and formed a small army of Kurds to fight the allies, but he was soon forced to abandon the venture and went to Berlin at the start of his permanent settlement in Europe.

In the German capital he fell under the influence of such Iranian intellectuals as Hassan Taghizadeh, a future leader of the Senate in Tehran under the last Shah, and concluded that one of the reasons for the widespread illiteracy of his fellow countrymen was the preference of their educated elite to write only for one another, "whereas in the civilised countries, even great thinkers try to write their works in as simple a language as possible".

The result was a series of innovative short stories published by Taghizadeh in his emigré magazine *Kaveh*, which eventually formed Jamalzadeh's first book, *Yekki Bood, Yekki Nabood* ("One Person Was, One Person Was Not"), the title being the traditional opening of Persian fairytales. While some critics in Iran denounced the conversational style as a degradation of literary tradition, others hailed it as the beginning of a new era. Jamalzadeh was now launched on his prolific career as a writer of short stories, novels, political tracts and histories.

For many years, Jamalzadeh earned his living as a teacher of Persian literature to foreign students, and as Iran's representative to the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. He visited Tehran regularly, but never seriously considered a political career there.

A blemish on his last decade was remarks in support of the Islamic revolution of 1979, which saddened many of his liberal admirers; but he remained otherwise in charge of his mind to the last. A few months ago in his Geneva nursing home, he complained to a visitor that death had kept him waiting too long. "Why am I not dying?" he asked. "All have gone and I'm still here. I no longer understand people!" His two wives predeceased him.

SHAKE KEANE

Shake Keane, jazz trumpeter and poet, died in Bergen, Norway, on November 10 aged 70. He was born in St Vincent, West Indies, on May 30, 1927.

NOT only was Shake Keane the most brilliant trumpeter and flugelhorn player of his generation of London-based West Indian musicians, he was also a prizewinning poet and an educator. For British jazz his importance began with his associations in the early 1960s with the alto saxophonist Joe Harriott, with whom he pioneered a highly original and idiosyncratic brand of free improvisation, and with the pianist Michael Garrick, for whom Keane was an enthusiastic collaborator in the "Poetry and Jazz" movement.

By the mid 1960s Keane's formidable abilities as a trumpeter competent in many styles had taken him into the world of commercial recording. He cut three albums of pop songs and ballads, accompanied by Ivor Raymonde's orchestra and the Keating Sound, before joining Kurt Edelhagen's German Radio Orchestra. Among his final jazz recordings were the LPs *Sax No End* and *Out of the Folk Bag*, cut in Cologne by the Kenny Clarke/Francy Boland Band in 1967. Here Keane found himself alongside the American expatriates Benny Bailey and Idrees Sulieman and the Scottish trumpeter Jimmy Deuchar, probably the most accomplished trumpet section in jazz at the time, in what was universally regarded as Europe's leading big band.

There were early signs that Ellsworth McGranahan Keane, one of seven children, would become a musician, but he came to jazz relatively late. He had music lessons from his father, playing in public from a young age and leading his first band soon after his father's death in 1940, but the music he grew up playing was the West Indian popular music of the day. He was equally involved in the study of literature, acquiring his nickname as a corruption of "Shakespeare" on account of his abilities as a poet. He worked as a teacher before coming to London in 1952, where he read English at London University.

As a student he financed himself by playing the trumpet. Mambos and calypsos, he told a friend, were preferable to manual labour, despite the frilly shirts and maracas. Keane was, however, so outstanding a musician that he was soon in demand in a variety of styles, and he began recording under his own name as early as 1954, when he cut his first disc, *Trumpet Highlife*.

The drummer there was the mercurial Phil Seamen, who shared both Keane's precocious talents as an instrumentalist and a self-destructive compulsion. Seaman's life was destroyed by drugs; Keane's was threatened by an inner restlessness that was apparent throughout his life.

Although Keane worked with several musicians whose main interest was jazz, he met most of them playing other styles of music — from Ghanaian highlife and Nigerian drumming to his native calypsos — and it took a meeting with the bassist Coleridge Goode to introduce Keane to jazz. Through Goode he joined Joe Harriott's band, although coincidentally he had already interviewed Harriott for the BBC World Service's *Caribbean Voices* programme, on which he worked by virtue of his reputation as a poet.

Harriott's Quintet offered Keane a musical challenge equal to his abilities and formidable intelligence, while in Michael Garrick's group he briefly found the ideal union of poetry and music. He played in both bands until 1965, when he moved to Germany.

In 1972 he returned to St Vincent and, having been one of his island's principal cultural exports, he was given a post in the Department of Culture. Neither this nor a subsequent return to teaching lasted long, although he produced his best-known poetry during the late 1970s. In 1980 he moved to the United States, settling in Brooklyn, where he worked inconspicuously in the local West Indian community. For a decade he barely touched flugelhorn, until he returned successfully to playing in 1989 in the Caribbean and in Britain.

He played very little after that, occasionally dusting off his horns for an overseas trip, especially to Norway, where his friend Erik Bye encouraged him to work from time to time. He was on just such a visit, to appear at a fund-raising event for cancer relief, when his own undiagnosed cancer finally surfaced.

Shake Keane is survived by three sons.

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN, Nov. 27

Dr. Goebbels, the Propaganda Minister, announced at the Chamber of Culture that he had issued instructions forbidding from to-day criticism of works of art, literature, music, and drama. The veto extends also to State stage, cinema and concert performances and the artists engaged. The place of criticism is to be taken by objective analysis and description. It is understood that the commentator will not be permitted to say that a work of art or a performance is either good or bad.

With this order Dr. Goebbels storms the last refuge of free opinion in Germany. It has, however, been a narrow one for some time past, critics having learned that they are not free to write on works of art without reference to the political, cultural, and racial values of National-Socialism.

The Chamber of Culture held its sitting jointly with representatives of the "Strength through joy" organization of the Labour Front, as a practical expression of the National-Socialist idea, that art should derive its inspiration from the national ideals and characteristics, and exist not for art's sake, but to serve the interests of State and nation.

"In a time such as ours (Dr. Goebbels said) which demands the utmost energy, endurance, and nerve, it is the special mission of the artist tirelessly to communicate to the nation strength through joy." He then referred to the difficulties in the way of a unified, cultural-political line, as he called it, and in this connexion concentrated on artistic criticism, which in spite of all efforts still bore characteristics of the liberalistic-Jewish period.

"The presumptuous know-betters", he said, "who to-day through eternal grumbling persecute the up-building of our cultural and artistic life with their unharmonious accompaniment are only the hidden successors of this Jewish autocracy of criticism." Every effort has been made to get them to reform, Dr. Goebbels adds, but in vain.

YOUNGSTERS' CRITICISM

Dr. Goebbels then announced his prohibition.

It did not mean, he said, the suppression of freedom of opinion, but only those might publish their opinions who had a free opinion of their own and were qualified by their knowledge, accomplishments, and abilities to sit in judgment on others who appealed to the public with imaginative work.

"Recently in Berlin we have seen how 22-year-old youngsters have drawn swords against accomplished artists 40 or 50 years of age and famous throughout the world, without showing a sign of expert knowledge in their criticisms." They ought to take as a first exercise the description of a work of art.

It could not be tolerated that, while in everything else the Führer's great constructive work was warmly supported by public opinion, artists, of all people, should be the last victims of free criticism.

For the rest, said Dr. Goebbels, art would suffer no loss by the disappearance of the critic.

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

NEWS

MPs attack Blair on Formula One

■ Tony Blair came under renewed pressure over the Formula One affair as two Commons committees — both Labour dominated — strongly criticised his decision to exempt motor racing from the tobacco sponsorship ban.

The Commons health and European legislation committees rushed out reports seriously questioning the Prime Minister's justification for the special treatment — the first time the Government has faced select-committee criticism.........**Page 1**

Guinness casts cloud over City

■ Inspectors from the Department of Trade and Industry accuse the main players in the Guinness affair of "an enterprise of deception" in their report, published ten years after it was commissioned. Although further prosecutions are unlikely, the report cast a cloud over City practices..............................**Page 1**

Prisoner can sue

A convicted rapist accused of harassing a woman from prison with letters and phone calls was given permission to sue her for libel for writing to the police about his behaviour.......... **Page 1**

Beckett blind trust

Margaret Beckett is receiving financal assistance from a blind trust set up before the election, despite a pledge by the Labour leadership to publicise the names of all its donors.................**Page 2**

Spencer's offer

Wounded by accusations of adultery and cruelty, Earl Spencer went on the offensive, revealing the divorce deal he has offered his estranged wife...................**Page 3**

Missing millions

City experts should be recruited to trace millions of pounds hidden by criminals. Sir Geoffrey Dear, an Inspector of Constabulary and a former Chief Constable, said.................**Page 3**

Hunts scent defeat

Pro-hunt campaigners accused opponents of "emotional blackmail" as they faced a resounding defeat in today's second reading vote in the Commons.......**Page 7**

Gender bending

Gay prisoners in the 1950s were given electric shock treatment and oestrogen — a female sex hormone — in an attempt to make them heterosexual............**Page 8**

Diet dangers

An obsession with healthy eating, exercise and vegetarianism is fuelling the growth of anorexia and bulimia among teenage girls, the director of a specialist clinic told headmistresses.................**Page 9**

'Sink Britannia'

The Princess Royal's appeal for *Britannia* to be scuttled and not preserved as a tourist attraction has left the Government — which had decided scrapping the yacht would cause public outrage — in a dilemma ....**Page 10**

Netanyahu challenge

A leading member of Binyamin Netanyahu's Likud party backed the creation of a limited Palestinian state in a new challenge to the Israeli Prime Minister.... **Page 15**

Transplant plea

James Earl Ray, 69, the man convicted of killing Martin Luther King, needs $250,000 for a liver transplant .... **Page 16**

Push against polio

India is mobilising its Armed Forces, two million health workers and millions of youth volunteers in a historic push against poliomyelitis .... **Page 17**

ANC 'feared Winnie'

Leading ANC members feared Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and her bodyguards and failed to end her Soweto reign of terror, Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth Commission was told..... **Page 18**

Rock music at Hutchence funeral

■ A distraught Paula Yates, cradling their 16-month daughter, said goodbye to Michael Hutchence — who died at the weekend aged 37 — at a moving and sombre but colourful funeral, which included rock music, in Sydney. Thousands of *INXS* fans stood outside and another 1,200 mourners had seats inside St Andrew's Cathedral.. **Pages 1, 5**

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Dr Heena Patel, accompanied by her husband, Dr Paul Oliver, and their sons, was one of hundreds of Ugandan Asians at a service in Westminster Abbey yesterday to commemorate the silver jubilee of their arrival in Britain. Page 10

BUSINESS

Wages: The Government published the Bill paving the way for the national minimum wage, making it clear that the new statutory rate will cover all regions and all sectors of industry ....**Page 28**

Barclays: The bank has been forced to retain BZW's exposure to a £1 billion legal action under the terms of the £100 million sale of the securities operation.............**Page 27**

Taxation: Independent tax treatment of husband and wives is threatened the Chancellor's plans for reforming the tax and benefit regime...................................**Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 closed *down 2.2 points at 4889.0. Sterling's* trade-weighted index rose to 104.4 after a rise to $1.6747 and to DM2.9545.......................... **Page 30**

Football: Spanish referees are striking this weekend, not about their £500-a-match fee but because they have taken constant criticism to heart ....**Page 52**

Rugby union: Nick Greenstock, of Wasps, will play at centre in the England side against South Africa, replacing Phil de Glanville who has an ankle injury .... **Page 48**

Cricket: The 1998 English season's fixture list has a radical look, with an international triangular tournament and Axa Life League games on a variety of days .... **Page 46**

Tennis: With Pete Sampras and Michael Chang, the world No 1 *and No 3, United States start* as warm favourites to lift the Davis Cup against Sweden in Gothenburg......................... **Page 46**

Museum charges: "A turnstile at the British Museum would not signal the end of civilisation," Richard Morrison writes. "It might just help to preserve it"..............**Page 38**

Disabled outcry: The National Theatre is under fire from disabled people for its production *The Cripple of Inishmaan*. They claim that it showed a disabled person as a figure of fun ....**Page 38**

Pop on Friday: Caitlin Moran charts the rise and fall of Britpop; David Sinclair wades through the *Princess Diana Tribute Album's* overwrought ballads ....**Page 39**

Davis triumphant: The London *Symphony Orchestra's Sibelius* cycle continued with Sir Colin Davis's superb Sixth and Seventh Symphonies........................ **Page 40**

Make it a fake: Faking it is no longer a cheapskate's alternative or the reaction to the animal rights lobby. It's fashionable, says Grace Bradberry.................. **Pages 19, 20**

Long struggle: Adam Mars-Jones looks at Public Records Office documents that chart the long and bitter battle for homosexual law reform....................................**Page 21**

World view: Michael Kuhn is the man behind *Bean* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral* . . . now, he tells Raymond Snoddy, he wants to take on the world........ **Pages 41-44**

Ungentlemanly relish: Why editors who suffered the lash from Earl Spencer after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, are relishing his discomfiture ....**Page 42**

Unappealing: Girls' schools are critical of parents who want second opinions when A-level results fall below expectations.............**Page 37**

Yamaichi's bankruptcy has effects beyond the immediate consequences for Asia, Europe and the US. It is about the struggle for economic supremacy in the Pacific Rim. . . . Although China has accepted many of capitalism's rules, it has remained immune from the Asian Tigers's troubles. This may not last — *La Stampa* (Turin)

Preview: Patricia Routledge's OAP detective is back. *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond sheds a tear for Flora from *Byker Grove*.............................. **Pages 46, 47**

Ghosts of Labour Past

Either a minimum wage does little harm, but little good; or it risks harming the very poorest, those with no job at all, while damaging the overall economy..........**Page 23**

Open season

Deployment of logic by supporters of hunting should be matched by a sensitivity to the concerns of their honest opponents..............**Page 23**

Hague's gender gap

If women had always voted the same way as men, Britain would have had many more Labour governments. The gender gap is crucial to the Tories ....**Page 23**

MATTHEW PARRIS

Bruce Anderson, the political editor of *The Spectator*, wrote *The Times* a courteous letter putting the case for decisive action to settle the Tory course at once in a Eurosceptic direction. If there are some who are reluctant to march, he said, it is better they leave now. His argument is powerful, rational and profoundly unwise ....**Page 22**

JOHN LLOYD

Flexibility is one of the great words of the millennium's end. We know it is in some way right, as a signifier of the end of an era in which places were, for a time, known and in which classes were, though never static, defined.................**Page 22**

YVETTE COOPER

Safeguarding collieries is being portrayed as a hopelessly uneconomic thing to do..............**Page 22**

Major-General Ian Campbell, Australian infantry commander; **Shake Keane**, jazz trumpeter; **Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh**, Iranian author; **Jim Miller**, businessman ....**Page 25**

Selection of Tory candidates; foxhunting debate; repression in Albania; clergy debts; radio for children...............................**Page 23**

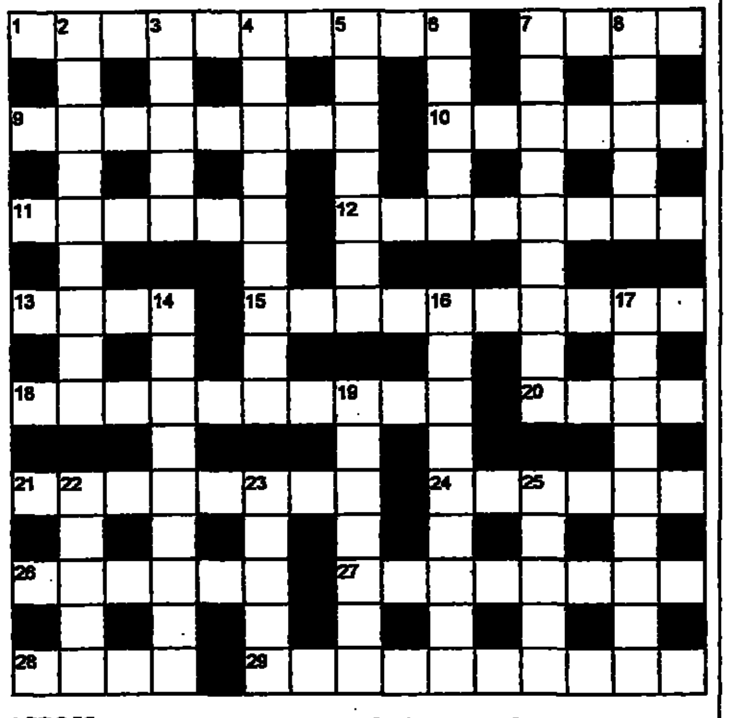
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ JONATHAN MEADES
We must build high to save the countryside from the developers

■ LAURA ASHLEY
The in-fighting *that brought down* the flower of English fashion

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,649



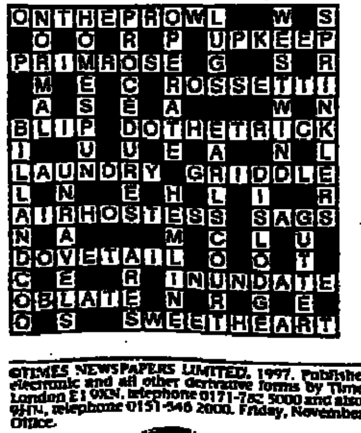
ACROSS

1 Two articles of tableware seen in window (5,5).
7 Old car involved in pile-up? (4).
9 Revolutionary means of measuring progress in the US (8).
10 A possible *approach with no* going back? (3-3).
11 A high position in the church is hope (6).
12 Did eating mushroom become standard? (8).
13 Blonde female with distinctive appearance (4).
15 Popular demand for speedy action about leader of Serbian revolution (10).
18 Notice discrimination in judicial pronouncement (10).
20 Wrong-doing not recorded retrospectively (4).
21 Impractical fellow, perhaps (8).
24 Set up, as last resort, at home initially (6).
26 Sort of hole one may get into by cutting corner (3-3).
27 Turning back in defeat (8).
28 Remain a short time in state (4).
29 Sort of table that's pinned beside entrance (10).

DOWN

2 Personal servant's dismal day off (5,4).
3 As an occasional typist one produces such speeds (5).
4 Concluding assembly (9).
5 Oxygen's made available along these flight routes (7).
6 One of the old school resigned in difficult circumstances (5).
7 Part of sock Achilles didn't get washed (4-5).
8 Feast ready to eat? (5).
14 Could this song be made any louder? (9).
16 Rand unusually made relative recovery (9).
17 Pal is on look out for crockery (9).
19 Snatch last of beer in bar (7).
22 Large nail needing heavy blow (5).
23 Origin of myth enthralled giant (5).
25 Young member of family (not the main branch) (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,648



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7 40 am
Sun sets: 3.57 pm
Moon sets 3.34 pm
Moon rises 5.27 am

New moon November 30

London 3 57 pm to 7 41 am
Bristol 4.07 pm to 7 51 am
Edinburgh 3 47 pm to 8 16 am
Manchester 3.56 pm to 7.59 am
Penzance 4 25 pm to 7 57 am

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales will start dull and wet, but brighter weather, with showers, will edge slowly north and east from southwest areas. The far North and East of England will probably stay wet until after dark.

Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and showers after overnight rain clears. Scotland will be cloudy with rain in the south and west becoming more widespread.

☐ **London, SE, E, NE England, E Anglia:** cloudy with heavy rain for much of day. Light south to southeast wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Cent S, Cent N England, Midlands, Channel Isles:** dull and damp with some heavy rain in places clearing to sunshine and showers this afternoon. Light southwest wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **SW England, Wales, NW England, Lakes, IoM, N Ireland:** any early rain will clear to leave sunshine and showers. Light west wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll:** dull with outbreaks of rain. Fog over the hills. Light southeast wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney:** mostly dry this morning, but mainly cloudy. Rain spreading from southwest later. Moderate southeast wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Shetland:** cloudy with drizzly rain for much of day. Fresh southeast wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** a few showers, but many places dry with broken cloud. Early mist and fog slowly clearing. Wind westerly, moderate. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

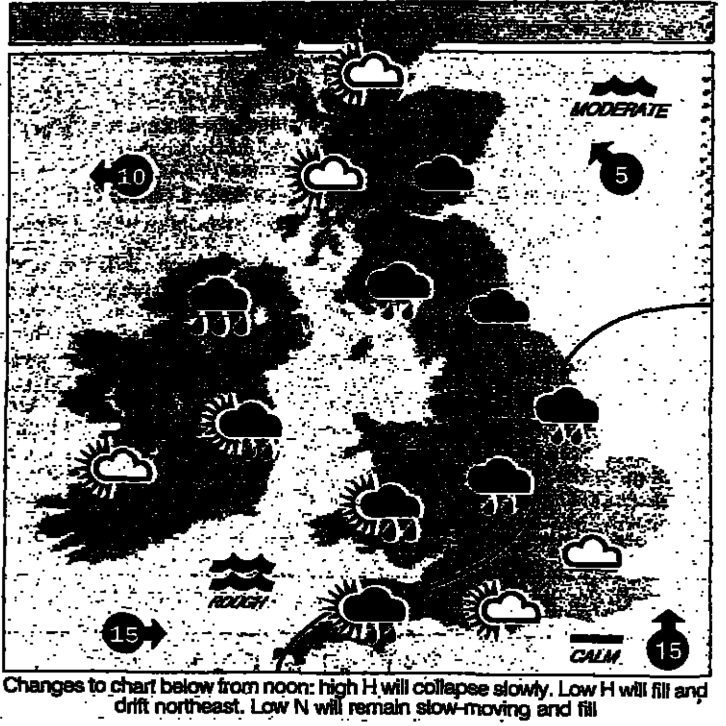
☐ ***Outlook:*** Scotland cloudy and wet tomorrow, but elsewhere brighter with sunny spells and showers. Turning colder on Sunday from the north.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	1.05	8	46	r	Jersey	2.2	0.52	13	55	b
Anglesey	-	0.01	10	50	c	Kinloss	-	0.06	8	46	r
Aspatria	1.4	0.01	9	48	du	Leeds	-	0.24	10	50	r
Aviemore	-	0.01	8	46	r	Lerwick	-	0.02	6	43	r
Belfast	-	0.09	10	50	r	Littlehmptn	0.3	0.08	12	54	du
Birmingham	-	0.11	9	48	du	London	-	0.08	12	54	du
Bognor R	0.6	0.16	12	54	c	Lowestoft	-	0.17	11	52	r
Bournem'th	-	0.37	11	52	c	Manchester	-	0.13	9	48	r
Bristol	-	0.03	11	52	c	Minehead	1.8	0.01	12	54	b
Buxton	-	0.15	7	45	fg	Morecambe	-	0.05	10	50	r
Cardiff	0.2	0.01	11	52	c	Newcastle	-	0.36	10	50	r
Clacton	2.0	0.20	11	52	sh	Norwich	-	0.06	11	52	r
Cleethorpes	-	0.07	10	50	du	Oxford	0.1	0.23	10	50	c
Colwyn Bay	0.3	-	10	50	c	Penzance	X	0.15	12	54	r
Cromer	-	0.06	11	52	d	Poole	0.2	0.44	13	55	c
Eastbourne	0.9	0.58	13	55	sh	Ross-o-wye	0.1	0.03	10	50	du
Eskdalemuir	-	0.07	8	46	du	Saunton Snd	0.3	0.04	12	54	b
Exmouth	0.2	0.03	12	54	c	Scarboro'	-	0.20	10	50	d
Falmouth	-	0.36	14	57	r	Shrewsbury	-	0.04	9	48	d
Fishguard	0.5	0.01	11	52	c	Skegness	-	0.04	10	50	sh
Folkestone	0.6	0.24	13	55	sh	Southend	1.3	0.26	12	54	sh
Glasgow	-	0.04	9	48	r	Southsea	1.5	0.14	12	54	r
Guernsey	1.3	0.19	14	57	b	Stornoway	1.0	0.01	10	50	c
Hastings	1.0	0.46	13	55	r	Swanage	0.3	0.37	13	55	c
Hayling I.	X	0.15	11	52	r	Teignmouth	0.2	0.02	13	55	c
Herne Bay	1.5	0.13	13	55	b	Tenby	0.5	0.03	13	55	sh
Hove	0.8	0.08	13	55	b	Tiree	1.4	0.01	10	50	sh
Hunstanton	X	0.01	11	52	d	Torquay	0.1	0.06	12	54	c
Isle-of-man	-	0.01	11	52	du	Weston-s-mare	-	0.02	12	54	du
Isle-of-wight	0.8	0.13	12	54	c	Weymouth	-	0.34	12	54	c

Ajaccio	18	61	f	Corfu	16	61	r	Majorca	17	63	f	S Fr'isco	14	57	s
Akrotiri	21	70	f	C'phagn	1	34	s	Malaga	18	64	f	S Paulo	-	-	-
Alex'dria	23	73	s	Dublin	10	50	r	Malta	18	64	f	Salzburg	1	34	c
Algiers	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Melb'rne	35	95	s	Santiago	23	73	s
Amst'dm	4	39	c	Faro	18	64	f	Miami	25	77	f	Seoul	12	54	c
Athens	16	61	f	Florence	14	57	f	Milan	10	50	c	Sing'por	28	82	f
B Aires	24	75	c	Frankfurt	5	41	s	Montreal	7	45		St'kholm	0	32	sn
Bahrain	23	73	s	Funchal	21	70	f	Moscow	1	34	c	Strasb'rg	3	37	c
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	5	41	f	Munich	1	34	c	Sydney	31	88	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	18	64	f	N Delhi	18	64	fg	Tangier	19	66	c
Barcelona	16	61	f	Helsinki	-3	27	f	N York	11	52	f	Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Beirut	21	70	f	Hong K	25	75	s	Nairobi	21	70	c	Tenerife	25	77	s
Belgrade	13	55	s	Innsbrck	9	48	s	Naples	18	64	f	Tokyo	14	57	r
Berlin	2	36	c	Istanbul	13	55	f	Nice	16	61	f	Toronto	9	48	r
Bermuda	20	68	s	Jeddah	29	84	f	Oslo	-1	30	s	Tunis	19	66	s
Biarritz	15	59	f	Jo'burg	17	63	c	Paris	11	52	s	Valencia	16	61	f
Borde'x	14	57	f	L Angels	15	59	r	Peking	7	45	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	c
Brussels	11	52	s	L Palmas	23	73	s	Perth	23	73	f	Venice	10	50	f
Budapest	8	46	f	Le Tquet	10	50	s	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	4	39	c
Cairo	23	73	s	Lisbon	16	61	f	Reykjavik	7	45	r	Warsaw	0	32	c
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Locarno	8	46	c	Rhodes	19	66	r	Wash'ton	10	50	c
Ch'church	26	79	-	Luxembg	9	48	f	Rio de J	26	79	f	Wel'ngton	21	70	-
Chicago	10	50	s	Luxor	24	75	s	Riyadh	23	73	f	Zurich	1	34	c
Cologne	10	50	s	Madrid	10	50	f	Rome	17	63	c				

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available



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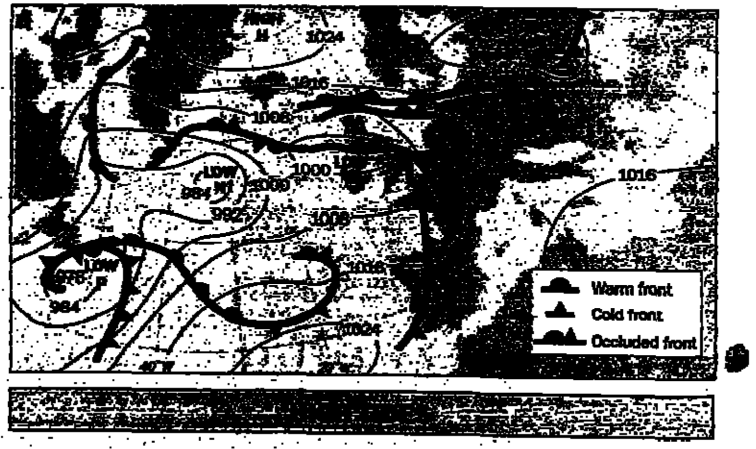

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	00.24	6.7	12.40	6.6	Leith	01.16	5.1	13.31	5.2
Aberdeen	-	-	12.15	4.1	Liverpool	09.57	8.8	22.13	8.9
Avonmouth	05.48	12.2	18.05	12.3	Lowestoft	08.00	2.4	20.36	2.4
Belfast	09.47	3.3	21.57	3.3	Margate	10.42	4.5	23.07	4.6
Cardiff	05.34	11.3	17.51	11.4	Milford Haven	04.53	6.4	17.08	6.5
Devonport	04.18	5.3	16.34	5.3	Newquay	03.47	6.4	16.02	6.5
Dover	09.47	6.3	22.06	6.3	Oban	04.38	3.7	16.39	3.8
Dublin (N Wall)	10.24	3.8	22.41	3.8	Penzance	03.18	5.1	15.33	5.2
Falmouth	03.49	5.1	16.05	5.1	Portland	05.21	1.9	17.33	1.9
Greenock	11.30	3.3	23.38	3.2	Portsmouth	10.10	4.5	22.30	4.4
Harwich	10.36	3.7	22.58	3.9	Shoreham	09.50	5.8	22.11	5.7
Holyhead	09.08	5.3	21.21	5.3	Southampton	09.27	4.5	21.46	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	04.57	8.1	17.18	8.2	Swansea	05.01	8.8	17.20	8.9
Ilfracombe	04.39	8.5	16.54	8.6	Tees	02.12	5.0	14.36	6.1
King's Lynn	04.59	6.1	17.25	6.2	Walton-on-N	10.30	3.9	22.53	4.0

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland Islands, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, 1.05in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 2.2hr.

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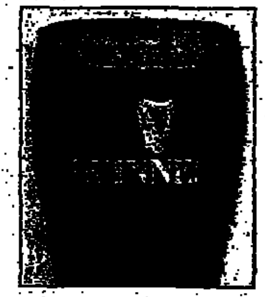
هكذا من الأصل

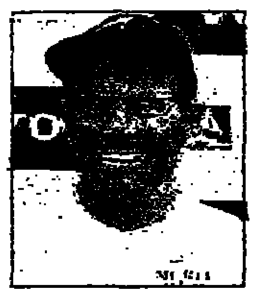
THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS
Trade department inquiry into the Guinness affair
PAGE 32

ARTS
Caitlin Moran writes the last rites over Britpop
PAGES 38-40



SPORT
Dalton navigates troubled waters entering Fremantle
PAGES 46-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

BZW sale leaves Barclays with £1bn hangover

Taylor: £150m for CSFB

By Jason Nissé

BARCLAYS has been forced to retain BZW's exposure to a £1 billion legal action under the terms of the £100 million sale of the securities operation to CSFB, the Swiss broker.

The case arises from BZW's work for British & Commonwealth Holdings, the finance group that crashed *in 1990 when it bought Atlantic* Computers, the leasing group, two years prior to that.

Earlier this month CSFB agreed to pay £100 million for BZW, though Martin Taylor, Barclays chief executive, allowed CSFB to keep £150 million of capital which Barclays had put into the broking operation.

Meanwhile, talks on the sale of NatWest Markets, the broking side of NatWest Group, to Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, are said to be close to conclusion, with a £200 million deal expected to be announced as early as today.

The Atlantic Computers action, *which involves a whole raft of City* advisers, accountants, lawyers and former directors of B&C, is not due to come to court before 2000.

BZW advised B&C on the £550 million deal to buy Atlantic, which specialised in complex computer leases, many of which were found to be unviable after B&C bought the group.

Atlantic went into administration on Easter Sunday 1990, dragging B&C down with it a few weeks later in one of the biggest financial collapses in British history. The running of both Atlantic and B&C have been investigated by the *Department of Trade & Industry*, which recommended that a number of B&C directors were disqualified.

John Gunn, the former chairman of B&C, has vowed to fight the disqualification proceedings and continues working in the City. However, the cloud over him prevented Mr Gunn joining the board of Chelsea Village, the AIM-listed group that owns Chelsea, the Premiership football club.

The BZW director who led the team that advised B&C has long since left the bank. Richard Heley joined Hill Samuel in the early *1990s and is now working at* Charterhouse, the merchant bank. He is expected to be a key witness if the case comes to court.

John Soden, a partner at Price Waterhouse and administrator of Atlantic, said the case involved more than 30 parties in a myriad of cross action with the total liabilities now standing at more than £1 billion. BZW is one of the largest defendants in the case and its liability, if proven, could be more than £200 million.

The Atlantic case follows HSBC Holdings being forced to pay £176 million to the creditors of B&C in an *action that resulted from its purchase* of Midland Bank.

Samuel Montagu, the merchant banking arm of Midland, has advised Quadrex, a financial services group, on a deal with B&C.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4889.0	(-2.2)
Yield	3.33%	
FTSE All share	2308.97	(+0.07)
Nikkei	16603.20	(+557.65)
New York:		
Dow Jones	Closed	
S&P Composite	—	

US RATE

Federal Funds	Closed	(5 9/16%)
Long Bond	—	(101 1/32)
Yield	—	(6.05%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 5/8%	(7 19/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	118 17/32	(118 13/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	Closed	(1.6735)
London:		
$	1.6745	(1.6710)
DM	2.9541	(2.9398)
FFr	9.8854	(9.8409)
SFr	2.3836	(2.3688)
Yen	212.61	(212.84)
£ Index	104.4	(104.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	Closed	(1.7595)
FFr	—	(5.9025)
SFr	—	(1.4168)
Yen	—	(127.03)
$ Index	107.2	(107.2)

Tokyo close Yen 127.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$18.70	($18.50)

GOLD

London close	$296.00	($296.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Chief's apology

George Mathewson, chief executive of Royal Bank of Scotland, apologised to customers for the problems of Tesco savings accounts, *which RBS administers in a* joint venture.
Page 29, Tempus 30

Tribunal clash

The battle between Sir Desmond Pitcher, outgoing chairman of United Utilities, and Brian Staples, the chief executive he ousted in the summer, is set to be replayed next month at a Manchester industrial tribunal.
Page 28

DTI doubted Mayhew on Guinness evidence

By Paul Durman

INSPECTORS for the Department of Trade and Industry investigating Guinness's takeover of Distillers did not believe some of the evidence they received from David Mayhew, a senior partner in Cazenove, the most blue-blooded of City stockbrokers.

In the much-delayed report into Guinness's £2.6 billion takeover of Distillers in 1986, released yesterday, David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt also question Mr Mayhew's judgment in tactics he used to help Guinness to defeat Argyll, the rival bidder in the takeover battle.

This forms part of the DTI inspectors' damning indictment of the integrity of the City. In the report, which is much watered down from interim drafts that circulated the City a few years ago, the inspectors say these features "shine disturbingly through": "Firstly, the cynical disregard of laws and regulations; secondly, the cavalier misuse of company moneys; thirdly, a contempt for truth and common honesty: all these in a part of the City which was thought respectable."

Commentary 29
Report details 32

In taking evidence, the inspectors "were faced constantly with untruthful, incomplete and sharply conflicting testimony."

The evidence of Mr Mayhew, who once faced a criminal prosecution for his role in the Guinness affair, is bought into question over the extent of Cazenove's freedom to buy £25 million of Guinness shares on behalf of J Rothschild Holdings, an investment firm headed by Lord Rothshild. The inspectors say the account from Rothschild's executives "is closer to the true picture".

"Cazenove were in practice masters of a formidable reserve of purchase power entrusted to them by JRH," the report says. JRH spent £28.7 million on Guinness shares during the course of the bid, but was not promised the indemnities or success fees that were part of the illegal support operation of the Guinness share price. The payment of indeminites led to the conviction of Gerald Ronson, one of the largest of Guinness's supporters, along with Ernest Saunders, the company's former chief executive, Jack Lyons and Anthony Parnes, two of the advisers who helped it up.

The share prices of Guinness and Argyll were vital to their hopes of success because shares formed a large part of the consideration they were offering to shareholders in Distillers.

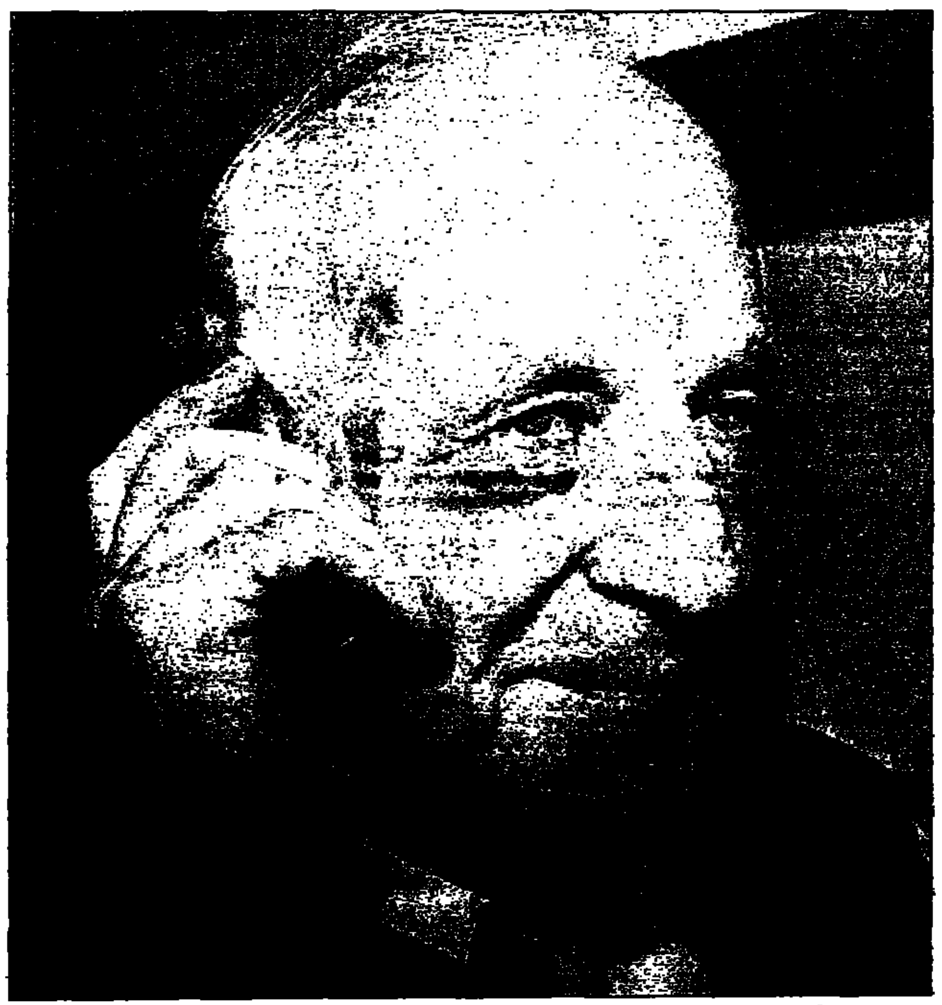
Mr Mayhew was also involved in a scheme to drive down the Argyll share price by selling a stake held by another Guinness supporter at strategically sensitive moments. The inspectors say they are "disturbed" by this strategem and query whether it would be within the spirit of the City takeover code.

Despite such remarks, Mark Loveday, Cazenove's senior partner, said the report is "consistent with everything that was ever said on this issue". He added: "There is no criticism, and no suggestion of wrong-doing, either by the firm or David Mayhew."

The report's harshest criticism of individuals is reserved for Mr Saunders.

The inspectors find that Mr Saunders was fully aware of the illegal support activities, *and the subsequent payments* of £3.35 million to Mr Parnes ("breathtakingly high"), £3 million to Jack Lyons and £2 million to Tom Ward, an American director of Guinness still wanted for arrest in the UK. Mr Saunders was to have himself received a £3 million success fee, the report concludes.

The Takeover Panel, the Securities and Futures Authority and others are examining the report to see whether further action needs to be taken. However, it is thought unlikely that action will be taken against individuals.



The harshest criticism is reserved for Ernest Saunders, then Guinness's chief executive

David Mayhew's judgment in tactics used during the battle is questioned by the report

Brown seeks US support for EMU

From Oliver August in New York

GORDON BROWN will make his first trip to Wall Street as Chancellor next month in an attempt to win support from the New York financial community for his plans to take Britain into EMU.

Mr Brown is aiming to squash growing scepticism in some parts of the American business community that could undermine the sterling exchange rate in the run up to EMU entry.

In a speech to the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York next Friday he will outline "the Government's preparations for EMU and the start of a single currency within the European Union".

UK officials in New York said the attitude of most US businessmen to EMU was positive, but they have been shaken by a number of attacks on the single currency in recent weeks. The Wall Street visit by Mr Brown is aimed at "nipping American Euro-scepticism in the butt".

Martin Feldstein, a Professor of Economics at Harvard, said in the latest issue of the influential *Foreign Affairs* periodical, that monetary and political union would make another war in Europe more likely, not less. He wrote: "The American experience with the secession of the South may contain some lessons about the danger of a treaty or constitution that has no exits."

Wall Street has for years been encouraging Europe to proceed with monetary union. The major US banks expected that EMU will give them new opportunities to earn to fees.

To gain prime time television coverage of the visit, top US spin doctors will advise Mr Brown's advisers, among them Burson-Marsteller, a Wall Street public relations company.

P&O set to unveil link in bulk shipping

By Dominic Walsh

P&O, the shipping and construction conglomerate, is poised to unveil a joint venture partner for its bulk shipping division aimed at cutting the level of investment needed.

The move, expected to be welcomed by the City, was first signalled in March last year when Lord Sterling of Plaistow, chairman, unveiled a big deck-clearing exercise aimed at raising more than £1 billion.

There had been suggestions that P&O might withdraw from bulk shipping altogether, but bringing in a joint-venture partner will satisfy concerns about the amount of investment that the business swallows. The agreement with the unnamed partner will mean that P&O no longer has to pump any of its own capital into the business.

Another main plank of Lord Sterling's strategy will come to fruition next month when *Bovis Homes is floated on the* stock market, although latest indications suggest that the mooted £250 million valuation may be optimistic.

There have also been suggestions that P&O is close to selling the Arndale shopping centre, in Manchester, to Prudential for about £300 million.

Independent taxing of couples may end

By Caroline Merrell and Alasdair Murray

INDEPENDENT tax treatment of husband and wives is threatened under plans unveiled by the Chancellor this week for reforming the tax and benefit regime.

It could herald a return to a system where husbands and wives are treated as one income unit for taxation.

However, a Treasury spokesman said the Government had no set plans to end independent assessment of income tax. Implementation of the new scheme was still under discussion and full details would not be ready until the spring Budget. "We are aiming to make the benefits more work-oriented, but the test is whether it is effective and efficient," he said.

The Government is planning a complete overhaul of the present system of family credit, which is paid as a benefit to families with income of less than £77 a week. It plans to replace family credit with a tax credit system, similar to the one in America. Around £2 billion a year is paid out in family credit and it is worth an average of £57 a week for families that claim.

Under a revised family tax credit system, workers will receive the benefit in the form of tax relief. Gordon Brown said yesterday: "We want to look at how we can help more low-paid workers to gain benefits from their work."

Commentary, page 29

UK 'will ride out Far East turmoil'

By Alasdair Murray and Richard Miles

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday expressed confidence that the UK would ride out the crisis in the financial markets in the Far East and that Japan would be able to restore confidence to its battered banking sector.

Mr George admitted there was a risk that the UK economy could be hit by damaging fallout from the problems in Japan and South *Korea, but he said both countries* appeared to be taking positive action.

He added: "Japan has the capacity to resolve its own problems. In the last couple of weeks the Government has shown it is prepared to let banks go into liquidation and stand behind their liabilities."

Yasuda, the Japanese trust bank whose credit rating was downgraded earlier this week, said yesterday that it would shed nearly 600 jobs as part of a restructuring plan.

The bank said it planned to raise Y100 billion (£500 million) of *capital through the* issue of new shares and the sale of its head office. It will also transfer its brokerage business to Fuji Securities.

Yamaichi, the broker that collapsed under £15 billion of debt, has appointed of DLJ Phoenix, a specialist corporate finance adviser, to find a buyer.

DLJ said that Yamaichi had already received approaches from international groups.

Battle asks EU to refer Redland bid

By Chris Ayres

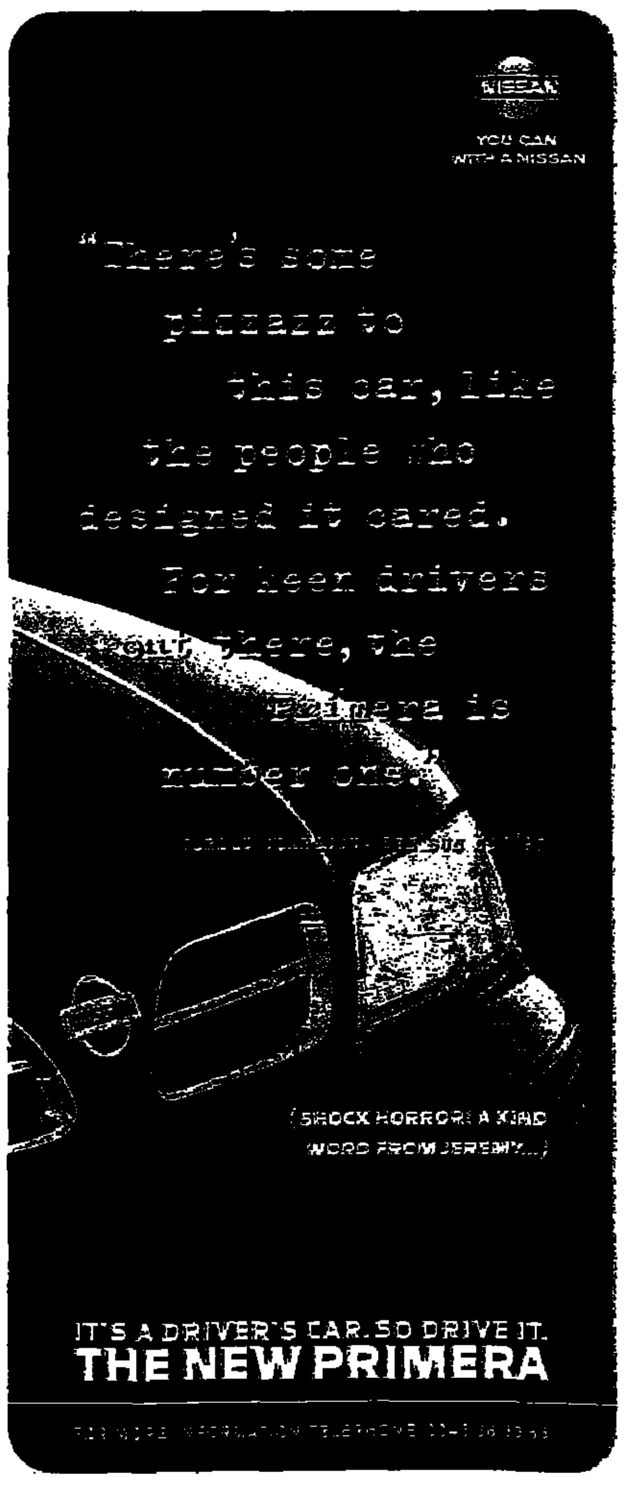
JOHN BATTLE, Minister for Science, Energy and Industry, yesterday asked the European Commission to refer Lafarge's *£1.8 billion agreed takeover* bid for Redland, the building materials group, to the UK authorities.

His decision is believed to *be related to Lafarge's ownership* of Enemix, a ready-mix concrete business with operations in Norwich and Leicester. The French group admitted that the takeover would give it *market* dominance in both areas.

Lafarge yesterday saw acceptances for its bid, which it increased on Wednesday to £1.8 billion to gain a recommendation, pass 50 per cent of Redland's shares, and shrugged off the threat posed by the investigation. However, it admitted the competition authorities could force it to sell *Enemix, but added that a less* radical solution was more likely to be found.

Analysts were initially baffled by Mr Battle's statement, as Redland's share of the ready-mix concrete market is known to be only about 10 per cent. Shares in the company dipped slighly in the morning, but closed 2½p up at 342p as confidence in the deal grew.

Lafarge also revealed yesterday that it had purchased more than 30 per cent of Redland after raising its offer price, and said its 345p per share offer was conditional on it gaining a 50 per cent stake.


NISSAN
YOU CAN WITH A NISSAN
"There's some pizzazz to this car, like the people who designed it cared. For keen drivers out there, the Primera is number one."
(SHOCK HORROR! A KIND WORD FROM JEREMY...)
IT'S A DRIVER'S CAR. SO DRIVE IT.
THE NEW PRIMERA

هكذا من الاصل

Round two of Staples and Pitcher fight

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE dispute between Sir Desmond Pitcher, outgoing chairman of United Utilities, and Brian Staples, the chief executive he ousted in the summer, is set to be replayed next month at a Manchester industrial tribunal.

Derek Green, the new chief executive, said the company intended to fight vigorously the claims of unfair dismissal from Mr Staples, who is to become chief executive of *Amey in the new year.*

Mr Staples is claiming more than £1 million in compensation. Mr Green said: "The suggestion that Brian's departure was the result of a personality clash with Desmond Pitcher was a nonsense."

Mr Staples was sacked in July and immediately instructed his lawyers to tackle United. *The controversy led to the* early retirement of Sir Desmond. After institutional pressure Sir Desmond said that he will leave next spring instead of his preferred date of 2000.

A severance package for Sir Desmond, who earns £310,000 a year, is now being prepared.

Mr Green, who has conducted a review of United Utilities's businesses, yesterday said that the company would make £40 million in additional savings by 1999 *through extra efficiencies from* the fusion of the electricity and water businesses.

He has jettisoned ambitious plans laid by Mr Staples for a full-blown move into the *competitive electricity market.*

United has still to sign key licence agreements for the opening of competition in the domestic market next April. It is complaining to the regulator of a lack of clarity.

The company lifted pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 to £233.6 million. Its interim dividend was increased 9.7 per cent to 13.16p. *Sir Desmond* stressed that United would moderate dividend increases in order to "underpin the sustainability of the dividend in the longer term."

Water customers are to get a £6.50p rebate next year.

FRANCESCO GUIDICINI

Stuart Lloyd, chief executive of Sutcliffe, Speakman, saw pre-tax profits slip from £2.6 million to £2.5 million in the half year to September. Earnings slipped from 1.35p to 1.23p but the dividend rose from 0.43p to 0.50p

Yorkshire Water defiant over payout

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE WATER, which is still trying to redeem its reputation after its performance in the 1995 drought, yesterday defied the regulator's warnings over high dividends by lifting its interim payment 20 per cent. But it claimed that it had struck a better balance between shareholders and customers.

Brandon Gough, chairman, said the six months to September 30 had produced "a useful, healthy but not excessive increase in profits but underpinned by some good improvements in customer service". Kevin Bond, chief executive, said the dividend had been raised by 20 per cent after a commitment to give real growth of up to 8 per cent, and after a share buyback had increased returns. Homes cut off for more than 12 hours dropped to 668 in the six months, compared with 2,274 a year ago.

Pre-tax profits were £115.7 million, up from £109.4 million. The interim dividend, due January 23, was set at 6.15p.

☐ Wessex Water's pre-tax profits were trimmed by the costs of buying back some of its shares last year. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 fell 4.5 per cent to £72.1 million. An interim of 6.5p, up 14 per cent, is due April 6.

ITN takes stake in Euronews

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

INDEPENDENT Television News will today sign a deal to take over 49 per cent plus managerial control of Euronews, the pan-European television news channel *that is* available to 90 million households in 43 countries.

It is ITN's first foray into running a channel of its own and its most significant move so far outside the UK.

Euronews, which specialises in world news, business and sport, broadcasts in English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian, with an Arabic service in peak time.

ITN, now owned by Carlton, Granada, United News & Media, Associated Newspapers and Reuters, sees the Euronews move as a business expansion and believes the loss-making channel, which is based in Lyons, can be turned into profit within two years.

ITN is buying the 49 per cent stake in the venture held by Alcatel for about £5 million and the European broadcasters who are shareholders in the venture, RAI of Italy, France Television, Swiss Broadcasting and TVE of Spain, have agreed to give ITN managerial control.

Recent studies of pan-European viewing showed Euronews second behind CNN but a long way ahead of NBC, BBC World and European Business News.

Hit list from Hardern

MICHAEL HARDERN, the "carpetbagging" activist, is targeting three more building societies for conversion after his failed attempt at the Nationwide in the summer (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Mr Hardern, a former Royal butler, is urging thousands of people who have received copies of his carpetbagger's guide to vote him on to the boards of Bradford & Bingley, Britannia and Chelsea Building Societies.

He wants the societies to abandon their mutual status and hand out windfalls to their members. Members who agree should send a stamped addressed envelope to his home in London for a Windfall Action Form by December 31, he said. All three building societites have removed him from their membership rolls.

Firms face £5,000 fine for failure to observe pay decree

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESSES refusing to pay the national minimum wage will face fines of up to £5,000, the Government said yesterday when it published the Bill to implement the measure.

It also accepted publicly that there might be a risk to inflation from the minimum wage, but insisted that the benefits were considerable and the risks small.

Ian McCartney, the Industry Minister, said the minimum would be "simple and universal", and would apply to all regions of the country, all sectors of the economy, and all sizes of firms. All workers above school age will be covered, the Bill makes clear. The only exemptions are the genuinely self-employed, voluntary workers, children below the school-leaving age, share fishermen and prisoners.

The minimum wage will apply to homeworkers, Crown employees, agency workers and the armed forces. Ministers are reserving the power to exempt all people under the age of 26, and trainees from the Bill's coverage, depending on the recommendations of the Low Pay Commission, which will suggest an initial minimum rate to ministers next year.

The Bill gives the power to appoint new inspectors or use existing officials like tax and VAT inspectors to enforce its provisions.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Asia turmoil may hit us, says Euromoney

SHARES in Euromoney Publications, the publishing group that recently bought *Institutional Investor* in the United States for £85 million, dropped by 35p, to £16.85, after the company gave warning that the turmoil in Asian markets could affect its next year's results.

Richard Ensor, the managing director of Euromoney, said: "This is not a profits warning. We do not make any forecasts. It was a pretty obvious statement to make, we have no idea *how the Asian market is going to* pan out. All our products are capable of switching focus to other parts of the world."

The statement from Euromoney came as the company reported a 19 per cent increase in its pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, rising from £25.5 million to £30.3 million and significantly above the City's expectations. Turnover was up by 25 per cent, from £104 million to £131 million, and earnings per share were up by 19 per cent, from 75.93p to 90.25p. A final dividend of 33p, rising from 32p, will be paid on January 26, taking the total dividend for the year to 51p, increased from 46p.

Tempus, page 30

Directors' pay up 8.6%

DIRECTORS last year got an average 8.6 per cent more in pay packages than in 1995. According to Monks Partnership, the remuneration consultancy, basic salaries rose 6.3 per cent. For financial businesses the basic rise was 7.4 per cent, while the full package rose 11.3 per cent. For property companies the basic increase was 4.1 per cent, while total earnings jumped 10.3 per cent. In industrial and commercial companies the rises were 6.8 per and 7.6 per cent. Twelve board directors earned more than £1 million, compared with seven the previous year.

Licence for Atlantic

THE Atlantic Telecom Group said yesterday that it has received Government approval in principle for a fixed radio telecommunications licence to run services throughout the UK. Atlantic launched a radio telecommunications service in Glasgow last year and says that 10,000 lines are either already installed or are about to be installed. The company plans to offer services to homes and business premises in a number of areas of England without requiring it, in principle, to incur the cost of building a national network.

Bristol press group up

BRISTOL UNITED PRESS, the regional newspaper group that last month bought Newsquest's Wessex newspapers subsidiary for £35 million, lifted pre-tax profits by 63 per cent in the half year to September 30, from £4.2 million to £6.9 million. Total sales were £33.7 million, up 8 per cent from £31.1 million. Earnings per share were up 78 per cent, from 10.81p to 19.24p. An interim dividend of 6p, up from 5.25p, is due on January 27. The company said that Wessex, which owns eleven titles, had been successfully integrated into the group.

I&S hits Caledonia

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Caledonia Investments declined £1.2 million to £22.4 million after the poor performance at Ivory & Sime, the Edinburgh fund manager, and last year's sale of Bristow Helicopters. The diversified trading and investments company agreed to sell two thirds of its 29 per cent stake in Ivory & Sime to Friends Provident, which is taking over the company. Earnings per share dipped from 17.7p to 17p. The company declared an interim dividend of 6.5p, up 0.3p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.58	2.39	Malta	0.663	0.624
Austria Sch	21.78	20.10	Netherlds Gld	3.517	3.222
Belgium Fr	64.06	59.10	New Zealand $	2.87	2.63
Canada $	2.505	2.317	Norway Kr	12.64	11.70
Cyprus Cyp£	0.906	0.836	Portugal Esc	313.53	291.50
Denmark Kr	11.82	10.93	S Africa Rd	8.82	7.86
Finland Mrk	9.46	8.71	Spain Pta	260.79	242.00
France Fr	10.34	9.58	Sweden Kr	13.77	12.67
Germany Dm	3.11	2.87	Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.32
Greece Dr	489	450	Turkey Lira	332801	312928
Hong Kong $	13.75	12.55	USA $	1.778	1.635
Iceland	121	101			
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.10			
Israel Shk	6.31	5.66			
Italy Lira	3067	2830			
Japan Yen	227.13	208.60			

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED GAS SUPPLIES LIMITED

Terms and Conditions

These Terms and Conditions are incorporated into your Agreement and sets out the basis upon which we will supply you or upon which we will be deemed to supply you as described under the heading "Deemed Contracts" below. The Agreement is between AGAS and yourself. The Agreement and supply will start on the Supply Date which we will confirm to you in writing.

1. **Payment**
   Your gas bill will be based on an estimate which will then be reconciled whenever a meter reading is taken. You must pay for any gas supplied to your premises according to the chosen payment method and frequency and at the prevailing price set out in the Price Schedule which forms part of the Agreement. You must also pay us the rate shown in our published Deemed Customer Price Schedule for any of our gas used outside the terms of the Agreement or at any time the Agreement is not in force together with any costs we incur due to such use. Payment dates will be indicated on the bill. When any payment from you is overdue by at least 28 days from the date of written demand, we may recover this from you and stop you from changing to a different supplier. The amounts of gas supplied will be calculated according to the requirements of the law.
2. **The Meter**
   You must tell us immediately if the meter is replaced or modified. If it is a prepayment meter you must tell us when it needs emptying or is faulty. If the prepayment meter fails to work we will not be liable for non-supply unless it is due to our negligence. You must ensure that no part of the meter including the seal or any attached notice is mistreated or removed. An estimate may be used if the meter is faulty. We will charge you for any costs which may arise should you take gas except through the meter. You agree to allow reasonable access (on suitable notice) to ourselves and anyone else who can identify themselves and who reasonably needs access to read the meter or in connection with the supply generally.
3. **Liability**
   We (including anyone who works for us) will not be liable to you for any loss of use, profits, contracts, production or revenue or for increased cost of working or business interruption however caused.
4. **Non-Supply**
   If we cannot comply with the Agreement for any reason beyond our control or we cannot supply you owing to works, repair, maintenance or safety reasons, then we will not be in breach of the Agreement. Where a direction is given to us under section 2(1)(b) of the Energy Act 1976 (emergencies) we are permitted to discontinue or restrict the gas supply and you must stop or restrict the use of gas when we ask you to.
5. **Termination**
   The Agreement will continue until validly terminated on 28 days advance written notice to take effect from when a new and valid agreement is reached between ourselves (or another supplier) and either you or anyone else at your premises or from when the premises are disconnected because you no longer need a supply. If you are moving house it may be terminated on 48 hours advance notice to take effect from the date you either leave or cease to own the premises otherwise you must pay for any gas used until the meter is next read, another customer takes over the supply or the 28th day from when you actually gave us notice (whichever is the earlier). The Agreement will terminate automatically at any time another supplier is required by law to supply your premises. If either party commits a significant breach of the Agreement the other may terminate (without affecting any existing rights or obligations of either Party) on reasonable notice.
6. **Safety**
   Anything done or not done by ourselves or the company which owns the pipes connected to your premises in dealing with an emergency or a safety issue will not be in breach of the Agreement.
7. **General**
   We may vary the Agreement. If there are any significant changes we will notify you of any variations which are to your serious disadvantage and, provided you terminate (on 21 days advance written notice to us) within 14 days of our notifying you, you will not be bound by the variations in the interim. You must not sign a gas supply agreement with more than one supplier at any one time. The Agreement represents the entire agreement between us and supersedes anything previously said, done or implied which adds to or conflicts with it.
8. **Deemed Contracts**
   If you use our gas at any time the Agreement is not in force or in other cases provided for by law the above terms and conditions will still apply (with any necessary changes) but they will constitute a Deemed Contract of the kind required by our licence. The need to give us 28 days notice will not apply although if you are moving out you will still need to tell us 48 hours in advance (or be liable for charges as above). Instead, the Deemed Contract will continue in force until we or another supplier begins to supply you under a written contract. If the meter was not read before you began using our gas under the Deemed Contract your charges for the unmetered period or until the supply ceases (if this is before the meter is first read after your supply began) will be based on a reasonable estimate of what your premises would have consumed. Variations to the Deemed Contract will take effect when published.

Copyright Associated Gas Supplies Limited
AGAS Domestic Customer Price Schedule
Effective 28th November 1997

Standard Tariff	Direct Debit Tariff
(where applicable)	(where applicable)
Pence per kWh	Pence per kWh
Abbeymeads Haydon	Abbeymeads Haydon
Wick Swindon 1.367p/kWh	Wick Swindon 1.289p/kWh
All other sites 1.412p/kWh	All other sites 1.329p/kWh
Standing Charge	Standing Charge
Abbeymeads Haydon	Abbeymeads Haydon
Wick Swindon 9.56p/day	Wick Swindon 8.30p/day
All other sites 9.87p/day	*All other sites 8.57p/day*

All prices are exclusive of VAT which will be added at the applicable rate. Standard Tariff payments will be paid quarterly. Unless existing arrangements (e.g. Direct Debits) have been permitted to remain in place *all* payments due under the Deemed Contract will also be *due* quarterly and supply will be at the Standard Tariff until further notice.

PG Adams
for and on *behalf of Associated Gas Supplies Limited*
28th November 1997
Issue 1.0

Associated Gas Supplies Limited
Deemed Customer Contract Scheme

Recitals

(A) Pursuant to paragraph 8 of Schedule 2B to the Gas Act 1986 ("the Act") Associated Gas Supplies Limited ("AGAS") is required to make a scheme ("the Scheme") for determining the terms and conditions which are to be incorporated into the contracts which are by virtue of paragraph 8(1) or 8(2) of Schedule 2B to the Act deemed to be made by AGAS with consumers in the circumstances set out in those paragraphs.

(B) This document constitutes the Scheme mentioned in Recital A above which Scheme shall take effect on the Effective Date.

(C) This Scheme may be amended from time to time by AGAS subject to the provisions of the gas suppliers licence deemed to have been granted (pursuant to Section 7A(1) of the Act) to AGAS on 1st March 1996.

1. Interpretation
   In this Scheme
   1.1 "Deemed Contract" shall mean the contract deemed to be created by this Scheme.
   1.2 "Deemed Customer" shall mean, jointly or severally, any consumer or consumers who take a supply in the circumstances set out in paragraphs 8(1) or 8(2) of Schedule 2B save that this shall not apply to any consumer supplied with gas to particular premises at a rate which is reasonably expected to exceed 2,500 therms per year.
   1.3 "Effective Date" shall mean 28th November 1997.
2. The Scheme
   2.1 AGAS hereby determines that all Deemed Customers shall be supplied by virtue of this Scheme on the terms and conditions set out in Schedule 1 (the Deemed Customer Conditions) and Schedule 2 (the Deemed Customer Price Schedule) hereto.

Schedule 1
Deemed Customer Terms and Conditions

These Terms and Conditions are incorporated into your Agreement and sets out the basis upon which we will supply you or upon which we will be deemed to *supply you as described under the heading "Deemed Contracts" below.* The Agreement is between AGAS and yourself. The Agreement and supply will start on the Supply Date which we will confirm to you in writing.

1. **Payment**
   Your gas bill will be based on an estimate which will then be reconciled whenever a meter reading is taken. You must pay for any gas supplied to your premises according to the chosen payment method and frequency *and at the prevailing price set out in the Price Schedule which forms part* of the Agreement. You must also pay us at the rate shown in our published Deemed Customer Price Schedule for any of our gas used outside the terms of the Agreement or at any time the Agreement is not in force together with any costs we incur due to such use. Payment dates will be indicated on the bill. When any payment from you is overdue by at least 28 days from the date of written demand, we may recover this from you and stop you from changing to a different supplier. The amounts of gas supplied will be calculated according to the requirements of the law.
2. **The Meter**
   You must tell us immediately if the meter is replaced or modified. If it is a prepayment meter you must tell us when it needs emptying or is faulty. If the prepayment meter fails to work we will not be liable for non-supply unless it is due to our negligence. You must ensure that no part of the meter including the seal or any attached notice is mistreated or removed. An estimate may be used if the meter is faulty. We will charge you for any costs which may arise should you take gas except through the meter. You agree to allow reasonable access (on suitable notice) to ourselves and anyone else who can identify themselves and who reasonably needs access to read the meter or in connection with the supply generally.
3. **Liability**
   We (including anyone who works for us) will not be liable to you for any loss of use, profits, contracts, production or revenue or for increased cost of working or business interruption however caused.
4. **Non-Supply**
   If we cannot comply with the Agreement for any reason beyond our control or we cannot supply you owing to works, repair, maintenance or safety reasons, then we will not be in breach of the Agreement. Where a direction is given to us under section 2(1)(b) of the Energy Act 1976 (emergencies) we are permitted to discontinue or restrict the gas supply and you must stop or restrict the use of gas when we ask you to.
5. **Termination**
   The Agreement will continue until validly terminated on 28 days advance written notice to take effect from when a new and valid agreement is reached between ourselves (or another supplier) and either you or anyone else at your premises or from when the premises are disconnected because you no longer need a supply. If you are moving house it may be terminated on 48 hours advance notice to take effect from the date you either leave or cease to own the premises otherwise you must pay for any gas used until the meter is next read, another customer takes over the supply or the 28th day from when you actually gave us notice (whichever is the earlier). The Agreement will terminate automatically at any time another supplier is required by law to supply your premises. If either party commits a significant breach of the Agreement the other may terminate (without affecting any existing rights or obligations of either Party) on reasonable notice.
6. **Safety**
   Anything done or not done by ourselves or the company which owns the pipes connected to your premises in dealing with an emergency or a safety issue will not be in breach of the Agreement.
7. **General**
   We may vary the Agreement. If there are any significant changes we will notify you of any variations which are to your serious disadvantage and, provided you terminate (on 21 days advance written notice to us) within 14 days of our notifying you, you will not be bound by the variations in the interim. You must not sign a gas supply agreement with more than one supplier at any one time. The Agreement represents the entire agreement between us and supersedes anything previously said, done or implied which adds to or conflicts with it.
8. **Deemed Contracts**
   If you use our gas at any time the Agreement is not in force or in other cases provided for by law the above terms and conditions will still apply (with any necessary changes) but they will constitute a Deemed Contract of the kind required by our licence. The need to give us 28 days notice will not apply although if you are moving out you will still need to tell us 48 hours in advance (or be liable for charges as above). Instead, the Deemed Contract will continue in force until we or another supplier begins to supply you under a written contract. If the meter was not read before you began using our gas under the Deemed Contract your charges for the unmetered *period or until the supply ceases (if this is before the meter is first read* after your supply began) will be based on a reasonable estimate of what your premises would have consumed. Variations to the Deemed Contract will take effect when published.

Schedule 2
AGAS Deemed Customer Price Schedule
Effective 28th November 1997

STANDARD TARIFF	DIRECT DEBIT TARIFF
(where applicable)	(where applicable)
Pence per kWh	Pence per kWh
Abbeymeads Haydon	Abbeymeads Haydon
Wick Swindon 1.367p/kWh	Wick Swindon 1.289p/kWh
All other sites 1.412p/kWh	All other sites 1.329p/kWh
Standing Charge	Standing Charge
Abbeymeads Haydon	Abbeymeads Haydon
Wick Swindon 9.56p/day	Wick Swindon 8.30p/day
All other sites 9.87p/day	All other sites 8.57p/day

All prices are exclusive of VAT which will be added at the applicable rate. Standard Tariff payments will be paid quarterly. Unless existing arrangements (e.g. Direct Debits) have been permitted to *remain* in place all payments due under the Deemed Contract *will also be due quarterly and supply will be at the* Standard Tariff until further notice.

PG Adams
for and on behalf of Associated Gas Supplies Limited
28th November 1997
Issue 1.0

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This Guinness has gone flat

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

It is eleven years ago today that the Department of Trade and Industry appointed two inspectors to investigate the Guinness takeover of Distillers. That we should have had to wait until now to learn of their findings is almost as scandalous as the contents of their report.

While the City regulators will now be obliged to pore over the 308 pages and appendices, the likelihood of them taking any action as a result is negligible. The drive to put Ernest Saunders and his cronies in the dock was fuelled by political will but the fiasco of three trials has long quelled that urge.

The publication of the report has generated headlines for this morning but the excitement will be short-lived, for the lust for blood has evaporated. The Government has spelt out that it will not be issuing proceedings as a result of the inspectors' findings and the Securities and Futures Authority is hardly gung-ho to attack top City names for what they might have been doing in 1986.

And the report makes clear that many of them were having a fine time, demonstrating total contempt for rules and codes, and, occasionally, the law. The inspectors are sweeping in their criticism of the Square Mile and speak of some of its inhabitants in tones of haughty distaste. They clearly did not warm to David Mayhew, and come close to impugning the integrity of the smooth old Etonian stockbroker. But they do not give the SFA any evidence that would provide them with the basis of a case against the man who is now a top Cazenove partner.

In short, the report provides little more than a riveting read and a snapshot of the City as it was, when share support operations were commonplace and the mutual back-scratching was as common as it is among any troop of monkeys. If Guinness went one degree further in its share support operation, it was not necessarily in providing indemnities to those who helped buoy up its share price but in putting them in writing.

Yet there was, in theory, regulation that should have put paid to the practices that were apparently so rife. Where was the Takeover Panel when Argyll and Guinness were waging war? The share price movements provided ample evidence that something was amiss and a strong Panel should have been able to root out the cause.

There have since been changes in City regulation and there will be more with the advent of the Financial Services Authority. But at a cost of more than £3 million, the DTI report has contributed nothing to preventing another Guinness scandal in the intervening decade. If these reports are to be anything other than indulgent journalistic exercises for accountants and lawyers, they need to be produced speedily with more of an eye to content than style.

There are currently four DTI reports wending slowly towards publication, inlcuding that into Mirror Group. The late Robert Maxwell has no interest in the outcome, but it will lose all relevance unless published soon.

Brave Brown risks feminist backlash

The independent taxation reforms passed in 1990,were intended to bring to an end centuries of inequality for women within the tax system. Seven years later, Gordon Brown, supposedly a new man, appears to wish wives to return to the status of chattel. His significant other, Sarah Macaulay, should perhaps be paying attention to her friend's view on the position of husband and wife within marriage.

The more well-heeled Labour supporters should also feel uneasy. Mr Brown could easily argue that independent taxation should be *abolished since it is flawed and* certain anomalies do still exist within the system. Although spouses are treated as separate entities, matrimony still has its fiscal advantages: gifts between spouses escape capital gains tax and estates pass free of inheritance tax. As he told us this week, Mr Brown is determined to root out tax avoidance. Getting rid of independent taxation would provide him with the chance to outlaw what could be seen as inter-marital avoidance.

But ending the separate taxation of husband and wife would bring the Chancellor into direct conflict with 100 or more of his female colleagues in the Commons, let alone hosts of independent-minded females outside the House of Commons. The brave Chancellor may be prepared to court unpopularity as a way of ensuring that the new-style family tax credits go only to the most needy households but he will need to plot his course carefully. Changes cannot be *made piecemeal and they should* have some regard to the mundane realities of family life.

How is he to ensure that the person who gets the tax credit spends it on the family? There is also the issue of the married couple's allowance of £1,830 which, following reductions by successive Tory Chancellors, is worth just £274.50. This is something of a dilemma for Mr Brown. If he increases the allowance, then he would benefit the rich as well as the poor. But abolition would destroy any pretensions to be the party of the family.

The Chancellor must be wary of the dangers of venturing into the territory between husband and wife. The Government has already demonstrated its enthusiasm for speaking first and considering the consequences second, whether on such complicated topics as foreign income dividends or the banning of tobacco sponsorship. Mistakes in certain areas are easily righted — just hand back the cheque. But in fiscal matters, the ramifications of change need to be carefully thought through before any move is made.

New York turns sour on the euro

Gordon Brown may be surprised to find more fearsome critics of EMU in America than at home, if only because their doubts cannot be put down to general Europhobia. Doubtless, economic elder statesmen such as Henry Kaufman and Martin Feldstein have had more contact with Britain's old free market internationalists than with new Labour's euro-focused long-termists. Yet their fears are real.

The Brownies have yet to grasp that what offers stability to *some spells inflexibility to others.* That hurts when the rules for stability are enshrined in institutions such as an independent monetary authority in Frankfurt or Threadneedle Street, let alone the Maastricht deficit rules.

France and other euro-fans chose to endure needless years of low growth and high unemploy*ment to allow Germany* a boost from annexing its eastern provinces. In the euro zone, there will be no choice. Hence the head-shaking from Americans who know that their civil war was not only about slavery. In practice, the worst threat to the euro zone may be its inability to deal with a general recession, rather than from unrest or calls for secession in economies that are out of step with the Rhein valley.

Mr Brown's best argument for investing in Britain is that the UK will be able to watch the euro's first, most dangerous *years from the sidelines without* suffering the risks of permanent exclusion. The UK is in tune with US advice not to rush the euro, American investors please note.

BAA humbug

SIR Terence Conran's recent attack on BAA in our letters column has brought forth a chorus of sympathy from fellow travellers who do not wish to spend their journeys pondering where to stuff the carrier bags. As the director of corporate affairs for BAA, Des Wilson's *determination to defend his com*pany and attack the detractor shows an impressive disregard for the fashionable concept of customer relations.

RBS sorry for delays in Tesco account debut

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

ROYAL Bank of Scotland turned away a string of retailers before forming its joint venture with Tesco, the UK's biggest supermarket group.

Dr George Mathewson, group chief executive of the RBS, took the unusual step of apologising to customers whose applications for a Tesco savings account had been delayed because of administrative troubles. Tesco has received 400,000 applications in five months.

The bank, which yesterday reported higher than expected pre-tax profits of £760 million, is understood to have held discussions with a number of companies that expressed an interest in entering the financial services market.

Lord Younger of Prestwick, left, chairman, and Bob Speirs, finance director, reporting the improved results yesterday

While RBS remained tight-lipped about the identity of the retailers, the bank did disclose that it has written off £11 million against its investment in Tesco Personal Finance, *launched in July.*

Dr Mathewson said that he expected to see the first profits from the bank's new retail finance businesses coming through by the beginning of the millennium. In total, *RBSwrote off £27 million* against its investment in new retail financial businesses, including Tesco and more recently its partnership with Richard Branson to form Virgin One, a telephone-based *bank that was launched last* month. The investment in such ventures helped to lift operating expenses at the bank by more than 17 per cent, to £1.55 billion. The group's income ratio edged up to 52.2 per cent, from 50 per cent in the previous year, in spite of falling costs at the UK bank.

Dr Mathewson also ended speculation that the RBS was in merger talks with Abbey National. He made it clear that the future of the bank lay in joint ventures, such as its partnerships with Tesco and life insurer Scottish Widows.

The chief executive did not rule out further acquisitions after its £630 million takeover of Birmingham Midshires Building Society in August, but stressed that prices were too high at present. For the next 12 months, expansion was likely to come from organic growth, he said.

RBS lifted its total dividend by 15 per cent to 21.4p via a final payout of 15.2p. The bank's shares rose 12p to 685p.

Tempus, page 30

Direct Line profit rises to £36m

DIRECT LINE, the insur*ance subsidiary* of Royal Bank of Scotland, has lifted full-year pre-tax profits 37 per cent to £36 million, from the 1996 figure of £26.5 million, but at the cost of losing 100,000 motor customers (Marianne Curphey writes).

The telephone insurer provides cover for 2.1 million private motorists — the largest number for a single insurer in the UK. Direct Line said it had succeeded in raising motor rates in selective areas. However, the industry is experiencing intense competition.

RBS said that unless motor insurance premiums rose, weaker participants would be forced to leave the market. Like other motor insurers, Direct Line has suffered from the rising cost of personal injury claims.

Troubled M&G falls further

By Gavin Lumsden

*M&G, the troubled fund man*agement group, yesterday insisted that it is on the road to recovery in spite of results showing a further fall in the company's share of the private investment market.

Net sales of the company's unit trusts and investment trusts, which have been blighted by poor performance, fell £220 million into the red as investors redeemed £779 million of holdings, £254 million more than last year.

Funds under management rose by 16 per cent, to £18.1 billion, way behind the 23 per cent growth in the FTSE all-share index.

Michael McLintock, the group chief executive, who joined in February, refused to comment on speculation that M&G had been in talks with potential bidders, such as Halifax, and denied that he had *been given nine more months* to turn the company round.

A 4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £67.4 million, disappointed analysts, who had expected £70 million. The share price fell by 11p, to £14.35, ending a rise of more than £3 in the past month.

Retail figures showed that M&G's share of the vital Pep market had fallen from 7.4 per cent to 4.1 per cent, in spite of spending £2 million in the spring on a television advertising campaign featuring Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor. Overall marketing expenditure rose by £8 million, to £46.2 million, as M&G stepped up the promotion of low-cost funds via independent financial advisers.

A final dividend of 24p makes 40p, up 11 per cent.

Tempus page 30

Berisford best for eight years

By Fraser Nelson

BERISFORD, *the Magnet* DIY and kitchens group, returned its strongest results for eight years yesterday after staging a full recovery from the strike at its Darlington factory and production problems in the US.

The boom in Britain's DIY market helped the company to lift profits from £25.5 million to £37 million before tax and exceptionals in the year to September 30.

A range of new kitchens helped Magnet to deliver underlying sales growth of 15 per cent, beating 10 per cent growth in the market. Increased share of the woodwork market saw its joinery division advance 18 per cent, while the plastic double-glazed windows division grew 20 per cent.

A 4.5p final dividend, due on January 1, makes 6.5p (4.5p).

Brewery drops its failures

By Dominic Walsh

AFTER failing to make an acceptable return on capital, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, the regional brewer and pub operator, is to drop some of its pub concepts.

Ralph Findlay, finance director, said brands such as Fast Eddie's and Lazt Word would be discontinued and the focus would be the Milestone, Varsity and Poacher's Pocket concepts.

In the year to September 28, return on investment in new-built units was 11 per cent against a target of 15 per cent, with some pubs failing to make any return whatsoever.

Pre-tax profits before exceptionals were unchanged at £43.1 million on sales 10.4 per cent better at £275.6 million. Earnings per share, excluding exceptionals, were up 3.1 per cent to 46.8p. A final of 12.1p, to be paid on January 30, makes 18.7p, up 10 per cent. The group is to seek shareholder approval to buy back 14.99 per cent of its shares.

Plasterboard firm likely to shed 100 workers in UK

By Adam Jones

ABOUT 100 UK staff are likely to be made redundant by BPB, the plasterboard maker, as it tackles underperformance at its paper division.

The division, which employs 2,400 internationally, mainly supplies paper for the manufacture of plasterboard used in the building trade. Its return on sales fell from 8.9 per cent in the first half of 1996, to 3.3 per cent in the comparable period of 1997.

BPB aims to shed 850 jobs by selling its mill in Radcliffe, Manchester, as well as a Dutch mill already earmarked for disposal and by closing a divisional head office in Northwich, Cheshire.

Jean-Pierre Cuny, chief executive, said that he hoped the Radcliffe jobs would be retained in any sale, but the bulk of the anticipated redundancies would be at Northwich.

In spite of a profits fall induced by the strong pound, BPB raised its interim dividend 7 per cent yesterday to highlight underlying growth.

Interim profits before tax fell from £108.3 million in 1996, when a £11.6 million exceptional credit was recorded, to £89 million. Mike Betts, a Goldman Sachs analyst, predicted full-year profits of £176 million.

Mr Cuny said underlying profits would have been up 4 per cent at constant exchange rates. Actual underlying profits fell £7.9 million to £88.8 million after a £12 million currency hit and an increased redundancy charge of £4.8 million, up from £2.2 million.

Mr Cuny said BPB was considering taking advantage of the crises in the Far East as a cheap expansion opportunity. BPB has no exposure there.

An interim dividend of 3.8p per share will be paid on January 23 as a foreign income dividend.

Technology sector deals boost 3i

By Richard Miles

A BUOYANT market for management deals in the mid-cap and technology sectors helped to boost first-half pretax profits at 3i, the venture capitalist, almost 14 per cent to £225.7 million.

It said it had achieved a total return of £217.4 million, equivalent to 7.5 per cent on shareholder funds, against £188.4 million for the same six months in 1996. This compares with a 1.3 per cent rise in the FTSE smallcap total return index.

Net asset value edged up 6.6 per cent to 518p as shareholders' funds exceeded £3 billion for the first time. During the period, 3i invested £538.4 million, the bulk placed in 342 UK businesses.

Brian Larcombe, chief executive, said he was considering backing companies on the Alternative Investment Market in the wake of falling share prices. He added that 3i had invested £52 million in 44 businesses in continental Europe.

American news lifts Johnson Matthey price

By Adam Jones

SHARES in Johnson Matthey leapt 6 per cent to 553p on excitement over its new US semiconductor-packaging factory and reassuring comments about exposure to Asian volatility. A restructuring of a ceramics joint venture will lead to the loss of more than 50 jobs in Stoke, however.

The metals and engineering group reported interim pretax profits of £58.2 million, a rise of 14 per cent. Electronic-materials division profits were up 50 per cent to £18 million. David Davies, chairman, said its semiconductor packaging plant in Wisconsin, has reached its target of producing a million units a month. He said full capacity of about 1.5 million a month should be reached by March.

Johnson Matthey said there was no fallout from the Far East yet. A slight dip in Japanese demand for platinum was more than matched by increases from China.

In an overhaul of the underperforming ceramics joint venture with Cookson, peripheral businesses are to be sold and the decorative ceramics operation is to be streamlined. One hundred jobs will be lost internationally. The interim dividend increased by 10.6 per cent to 5.2p.

TRAVEL

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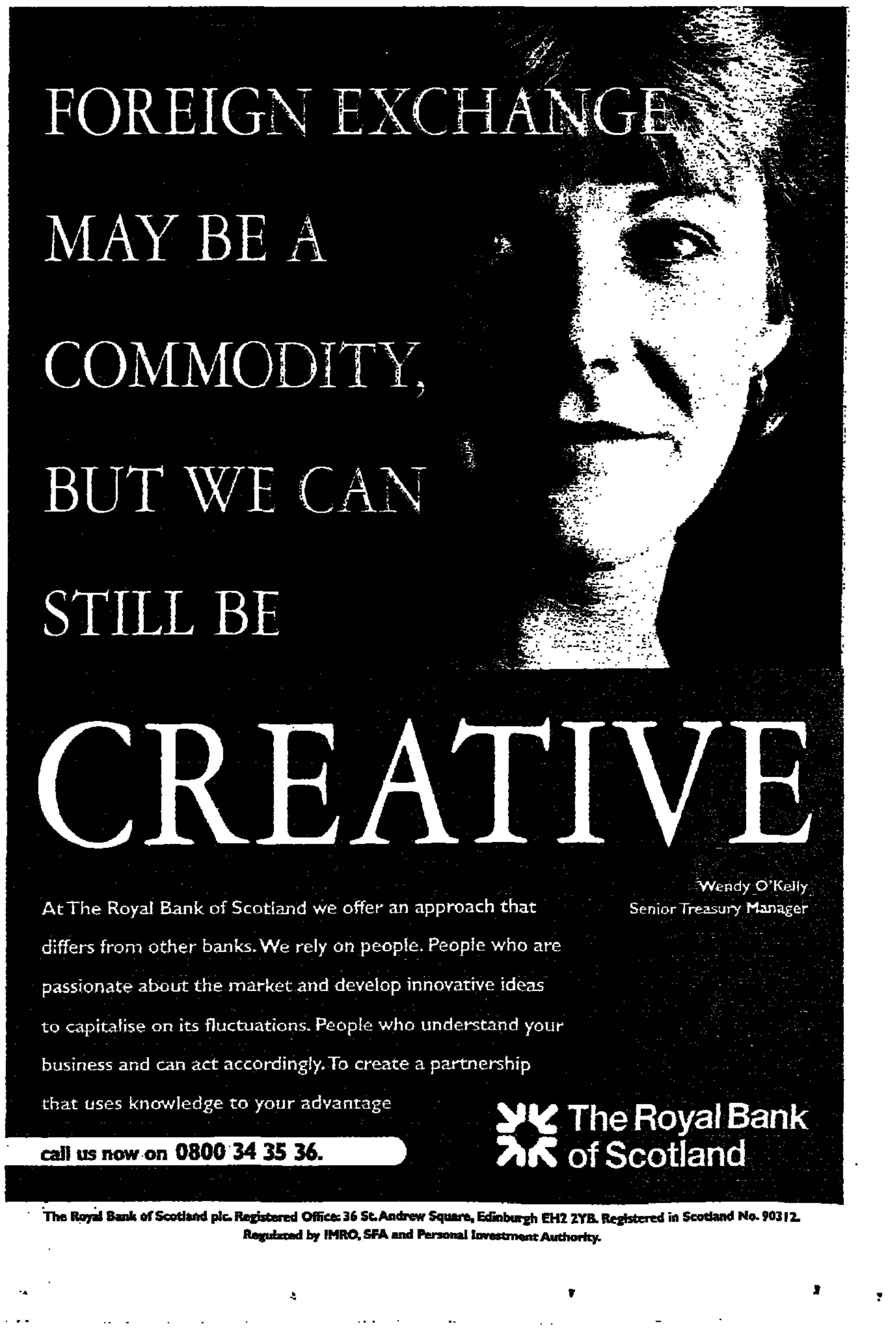
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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Vodafone takeover talk lifts shares to new high

THE saying that price tells all is one often quoted by City brokers, in which case we should see a bid any day now for **Vodafone**, Britain's biggest mobile phone operator.

The price climbed a further 13p to an all-time high of 394p — stretching its lead during the past couple of weeks to 47p — amid further heavy turnover that saw almost eight million shares change hands. The group now commands a price tag of £1.2 billion.

There has been talk for some weeks about a bid from American Telephone & Telegraph, which is said to be anxious to gain a toehold in the European mobile phone market. Vodafone may prove to be the ideal vehicle, unlike Cellnet, its nearest rival owned jointly by **BT**, down 6¼p at 456p½, and **Securicor**, up 5½p at 275p. Other names may also be in the frame. Brokers say Lehman Brothers, the US securities firm, has been a big buyer of the stock.

A few weeks ago Vodafone, under Chris Gent, chief executive, announced a series of price cuts in an attempt to stoke up the competitive pressures for its rivals. Brokers say the recent rise appears to be discounting a lot.

Share prices generally enjoyed an early mark-up with the help of another positive performance overnight in Tokyo. But with Wall Street closed for the Thanksgiving Day celebrations, prices in London failed to hold on to their early lead and the FTSE 100 index closed 2.2 down at 4,889.0. Turnover was on the low side, with 689 million shares traded, and this was swollen by 110 million shares traded in **Redland** after the increased terms from Lafarge. Redland firmed 2½p to 342p, unperturbed by a Government call to the European Commission to refer part of the £1.8 billion bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

British Aerospace climbed 36p to £16.28 after the German Government finally gave the go-ahead to the £40 billion European fighter project. BAe will supply the wings and part of the fuselage. Other beneficiaries include **Rolls-Royce**, 2p easier at 234p, which will help to make the engines and **GEC**, 3¼p cheaper at 393½p, involved in supplying the aircraft's electronic systems. BAe is also expected to benefit soon from a Government decision to allow foreign share ownership to rise from 29.9 per cent to around 40 per cent.

Chris Gent, of Vodafone, a further 13p higher at 394p

The falling oil price is likely to make life difficult for the oil companies. But **Shell**, down 6p at 412p, also had to contend with the suggestion from BZW that clients should switch into rival **BP**, 4p better at 812p.

Zeneca continued to make headway with a rise of 69p to £18.96 as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson told clients to switch out of **Glaxo Wellcome**, 2p lighter at £13.78.

Earlier this week Zomig, Zeneca's migraine pill was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. Word is the group is now looking for a partner in the US with which to market the drug. Zeneca calculates that 23 million Americans suffer from migraine and that the market for Zomig could be worth £1.5 billion within the next few years.

Meanwhile, **British Biotech** advanced 7½p to 117½p, fuelled by claims that Zeneca is poised to make a bid. British Biotech currently carries a price tag of £725 million.

Hillsdown fell 8p to 157p as several brokers downgraded their profit forecasts from £165 million to £158 million. The move has been blamed on weakening food prices. But Fairview, its housebuilding arm, continues to do well as does its furniture business.

News of a bid approach lifted **Neepsend** 8½p to 39½p. The group is also poised to sell a piece of land for £1 million currently on the books at £150,000. But the engineer warned shareholders that final profits would fall short of last year's £1.61 million.

Courtaulds rose 6½p to 276½p after HSBC James Capel, the broker, made some encouraging noises and set a target price for the shares of 385p. It follows close on the heels of the group's acquisition of a German protective coatings business.

Tetra Holdings made an encouraging debut after a placing of shares by HSBC James Capel at 160p. The computer software specialist saw its price touch a peak of 172½p before settling at 171p, a premium of 11p.

Also making its debut was **Seascope Shipping**, which enjoyed a modest premium after a placing by Bell Lawrie White, the broker, at 250p. The shares closed 5p dearer at 255p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London drifted lower, along with other European markets. The continuing rally in Japan overnight prompted a move away from fixed interest back into equities.

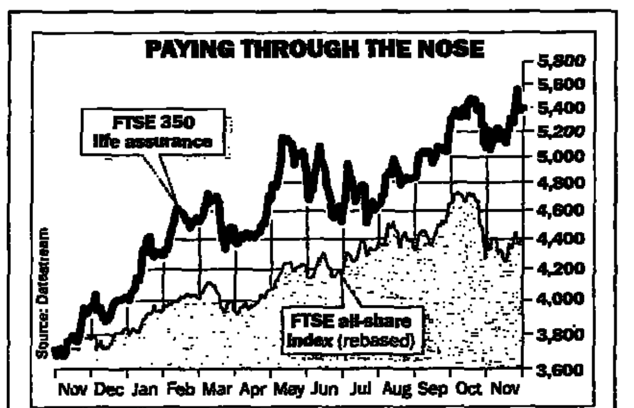
The absence of any inspiration from US Treasury bonds also kept investors sidelined for much of the day. They await testimony from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to the Treasury select committee.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt traded £9/32 lower at £118 19/32 in moderate trading.

In longs Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell £9/32 to £118 27/32 while among shorter dated issues Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £⅛ lower at £100 23/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street was closed for Thanksgiving.

PAYING THROUGH THE NOSE



THERE was a pause for breath among the life assurance companies having seen their share prices race ahead sharply this week on the back of a flurry of revived bid speculation. Takeover favourite London & Manchester retreated 13p to 501p, while falls were also recorded in Legal & General, 10p to 508p, Norwich Union, 5p to 363p, and Prudential Corporation, 5p to 658p.

But this lull in activity is likely to prove short-lived. David Hudson at Credit Lyonnais Laing says: " We know the banks and building societies are desperate to snap-up the life assurers." But he gives warning that any potential bidder will have to pay through the nose for the business.

"Take Legal & General as an example, the proper price to pay for the company is around 420p. But if anyone wants to bid, they are going to have to pay over 500p and this week L&G directors have been selling stock."

Hudson says the same can be said of the rest of the sector. "They are all overpriced and overhyped," he asserts.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones — Closed
S&P Composite — —

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average — 16603.20 (+557.65)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng — 10683.10 (-7.01)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index — 886.31 (+3.96)

Sydney:
AO — 2462.3 (-0.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX — 3953.84 (+37.31)

Singapore:
Straits — 1650.97 (-2.58)

Brussels:
General — 13673.68 (+45.14)

Paris:
CAC-40 — 2829.01 (+17.36)

Zurich:
SKA Gen — 1190.60 (+7.30)

London:
FT 30 — 3160.7 (-2.8)
FTSE 100 — 4889.0 (-2.2)
FTSE 250 — 4658.3 (+6.5)
FTSE 350 — 2361.2 (-0.2)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 — 2564.66 (+7.06)
FTSE All-Share — 2308.97 (+0.07)
FTSE Non Financials — 2348.98 (-0.82)
FTSE Fixed Interest — 131.86 (-0.02)
FTSE Govt Secs — 100.07 (-0.12)
Bargains — 40599
SEAQ Volume — 685.2m
US$ — 1.6747 (+0.0029)
German Mark — 2.9545 (+0.0130)
Exchange Index — 104.4 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU — 1.4867
£:SDR — 1.2333
RPI — 159.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX — 157.9 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advance UK Tst	100½	...
BCH Group	199½	...
BG 'B'	30½	...
CRC	110	...
Capital Opps Tst	113½	...
Cresco Intl	153½	...
Flmg Geared Uts	72½	...
Foresight Tech Wts	30	...
Foresight Tech	100	...
Gyrus Group	144	...
Holmes Place	185	+ ½
Maelor	103½	...
Metalsrussia	73½	- 9
Minorplanet Sys	54	...
Newsquest (250)	255	+ 1
Northern Recrtmnt	116½	...
Nottingham Frst (70)	56½	...
Savoy Asset Mngmt	113½	...
Seascope Shipping	*255*	...
Tetra	171½	...
Workplace Tech	198½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Green Prop (350)	32½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Hall Eng — 177p (+10½p)
Johnson Math — 553p (+30½p)
Stanley Leis — 250p (+10p)
Com Union — 852p (+34p)
Blick — 255p (+10p)
Capita Gp — 330p (+12p)
Vodafone — 394p (+13p)
Dixons Gp — 695p (+18½p)
Andrew Sykes — 695p (+15p)
Danka Bs Sys — 556p (+11p)

FALLS:
Psion — 415p (-22½p)
Blur Circle — 345p (-12½p)
Williams — 322p (-11p)
Reuters — 669p (-22p)
Stand Chart — 675p (-22p)
Hutch Whamp — 391p (-12½p)
Londn & Man — 501p (-13p)
Legal & Gen — 508p (-10p)
Grand Met — 548p (-9p)
Grainger — 320p (-10p)
TT Group — 297p (-9½p)

Closing Prices Page 34

TEMPUS

Mixed Royal message

ROYAL Bank of Scotland comfortably beat the expectations of the City yesterday to report a 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits. Even Direct Line, the telephone-based insurance arm founded by Peter Wood, appears to have made a return to form, chipping in £36 million towards a total of £760 million.

However, the results will only serve to heighten speculation about the bank's future in a sector where consolidation appears to accelerate almost daily. George Mathewson, the plain-speaking group chief executive, did his best to dispel the rumours, shooting down recent reports that RBS had begun merger talks with Abbey National.

Dr Mathewson believes the bank's future lies in partnerships with retailers, such as the joint venture with Tesco and, more recently, the tie-up with Richard Branson to form Virgin One, a telephone-based bank. Such partnerships allow RBS to expand its retail business south of the border far more cheaply and quickly than through the establishment of a traditional branch network.

But doubts have already surfaced about the bank's ability to cope with the demands of such partnerships. Tesco took the unusual step of offering compensation to many of the 400,000 applicants for its savings account after they suffered lengthy delays. Yesterday, Dr Mathewson apologised for the mix-up, claiming the bank was a victim of its own success. Whether Mr Branson would stand for such a publicity disaster is doubtful: remember how quick he was to drop Norwich Union in favour of Australian insurer AMP as the backer of Virgin Direct during its early days. The shares look an unexciting prospect.

M&G

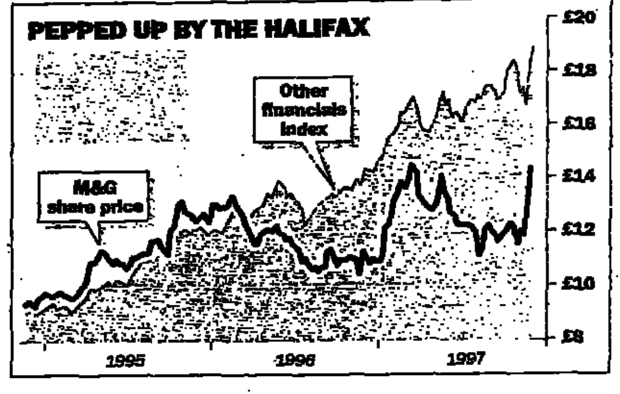
POORER than expected results sent M&G's shares down 11p yesterday, a salutory reminder of what will happen if all the talk about talks with the Halifax proves untrue. In the past month, the beleaguered fund manager's stock has risen nearly £3 on the back of bid speculation. Without a bid its true value is probably nearer £13, a good 150p below its current price.

Michael McLintock, chief executive, tried to play on fears that M&G was overvalued when he ingenuously suggested such an "untoward movement" would have merited an announcement under the City's takeover and merger rules if talks were under way. There had been no such statement.

Unfortunately, the takeover rules refer to one-day movements in share prices, not weeks of steady rise. Shareholders can be pretty sure that talks are indeed on. Halifax is one of several big players with money looking to expand into fund management, while M&G is one of the ever dwindling band of independent managers with nowhere to go. Of course shareholders have got used to M&G's lack of credibility. The result was a near halving of M&G's share in the Pep market.

M&G insists its fund review has revived its fortunes. However, dwindling fee income, increased expense and a flawed brand image mean the only reason to buy M&G is if you think someone is going to bid.

PEPPED UP BY THE HALIFAX



Berisford

POOR old Berisford. It has delivered a threefold earnings jump, sorted out its US division and is now dangling a fat £475 million in tax credits. Yet its shares still languish at 181p — only 10.4 times forecast earnings.

The City, it seems, has not forgotton the wilderness years when the company delivered nothing but misery to shareholders. Many feel that Alan Bowkett, chief executive, should not be forgiven until Berisford has spent as many years in the black as it did in the red.

But yesterday's results show few signs of the bad old days. Its Darlington factory, only last year the site of a costly industrial dispute, is now reporting productivity up 15 per cent. Costs in Welbilt, its US division, which still generates three fifths of company sales, have dropped sharply, leaving the whole group pretty close to a full recovery and on track to deliver 18 per cent profit growth this year. Of course, UK interest rate rises could hold back current growth in demand for kitchens and other consumer durables. Its sector is not the shiniest in the market, but these are topics beyond the company's control.

The shares look cheap at the current levels, especially given the tax losses. And until they get nearer to 200p, keep on buying.

Euromoney

THE directors of Euromoney, which knows a thing or two about information delivery, must be kicking themselves for including the last sentence in yesterday's results that said the turmoil in Asian markets could affect them in the next six months. The market read it as a profits warning, and Euromoney found itself boasting to an invisible audience that it had significantly outstripped market forecasts. The fact is that Euromoney's £85 million acquisition of *Institutional Investor* in the US has further protected it from Asian storms, with trading in the Far East now bringing in less than a third of all turnover.

However, Asia could give it headaches in other ways, especially if the bond market deteriorates, taking attention away from the plethora of magazines it publishes for that sector. Aside from that, the business still looks strong, with its ability to generate cash already reducing the £68 million of debt it raised to buy *Institutional Investor*.

With the company's shares now changing hands at 1685p, down significantly from 1832½p in October, they should look attractive, especially in a sector that traditionally trades on a premium. But with sentiment likely to deteriorate as the market waits for a less healthy set of final-year results, they are probably best avoided.

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
116⅜	113⅞	Treas 4¾% 1998	116⅛	-⅛	3.98	6.38
133¼	100⅞	Exch 9¾% 1998	100⅞		9.72	7.30
101⅛	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.28
110¼	103⅞	Treas 14% 1998-01	103⅞		13.57	7.39
114⅞	106½	Treas 15½% 1998	106½	-⅛	14.55	7.33
107⅜	104⅞	Exch 12% 1998	104⅞	-⅛	11.50	7.31
105⅛	102⅞	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅞	-⅛	9.29	7.31
111⅛	106⅞	Exch 12¼% 1999	106⅞	-⅛	11.53	7.28
108⅜	104⅞	Treas 10½% 1999	104⅞	-⅛	10.04	7.20
99⅜	95⅞	Treas 6% 1999	98⅞	-⅛	6.11	7.10
109¼	105⅞	Conv 10¼% 1999	105⅞	-⅛	9.71	7.17
106⅞	103⅞	Conv 9% 2000	103⅞	-⅛	8.66	7.10
104⅞	102⅞	Treas 8% 2000	102⅞	-⅛	7.79	7.02
105⅜	102⅜	Treas 8½% 2000	102⅞	-⅛	8.28	7.15
117⅛	113⅛	Treas 13% 2000	113⅞	-⅛	11.43	7.15
112⅞	108⅞	Treas 10% 2001	108⅞	-⅛	9.23	7.04
101⅞	98⅞	Treas 7% 2001	100⅞	-⅛	6.98	6.90
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
102⅞	97⅞	Treas 7% 2002	100⅞	-⅛	6.95	7.04
112¼	103½	Treas 9¾% 2002	111⅛	-⅛	8.76	6.90
107⅞	102⅞	Treas 8% 2003	105⅞	-⅛	7.58	6.80
117¼	111⅛	Treas 10% 2003	114⅞	-⅛	8.70	6.82
115⅞	112⅞	Treas 11½% 2001-04	112⅞	-⅛	10.18	7.04
95⅞	82⅞	Fund 3½% 1999-04	87⅞	-⅛	3.94	5.55
113⅞	107⅞	Conv 9½% 2004	115½	-⅛	8.25	6.72
103⅞	94⅞	Treas 6¾% 2004	100⅞	-⅛	6.73	6.68
114¼	104⅞	Treas 8½% 2005	111⅞	-⅛	7.63	6.67
122⅞	110⅞	Conv 9½% 2005	115⅞	-⅛	8.19	6.72
130⅞	125⅞	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127⅞	-⅛	9.80	6.80
102⅞	98⅞	Treas 7½% 2006	106	-⅛	7.08	6.61
110⅞	99⅞	Treas 7¾% 2006	107⅞	-⅛	7.22	6.64
105⅞	100⅞	Treas 8% 2002-06	104⅞	-⅛	7.66	6.92
123⅞	115⅞	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120⅞	-⅛	9.73	6.88
116⅛	105⅞	Treas 8½% 2007	113⅞	-⅛	7.51	6.62
107⅛	96⅜	Treas 7¼% 2007	105⅞	-⅛	6.90	6.55
121⅛	108⅞	Treas 9% 2008	119⅜	-⅛	7.56	6.49
114⅛	101	Treas 8% 2009	112⅞	-⅛	7.14	6.52
99⅞	86⅞	Treas 6¼% 2010	97⅞	-⅛	6.41	6.55
124⅞	108½	Conv 9% 2011	121⅞	-⅛	7.39	6.56
125⅞	109⅞	Treas 9% 2012	122⅞	-⅛	7.33	6.58
93⅞	80⅞	Treas 5½% 2008-12	91⅞	-⅛	6.02	6.43
112⅞	98⅞	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	110⅞	-⅛	7.01	6.61
LONGS (over 15 years)						
116⅞	100⅞	Treas 8% 2013	114⅞	-⅛	7.00	6.54
118⅞	101⅞	Treas 8% 2015	116⅞	-⅛	6.89	6.47
128⅞	103⅞	Treas 8¾% 2017	124⅞	-⅛	7.01	6.49
121⅞	101⅞	Tr 8% 2021	118⅞	-⅛	6.73	6.43
UNDATED						
54⅞	42⅞	War Ln 3½%	53⅞	-⅛	6.50	
33⅞	30⅞	Treas 2½%	37⅞	+⅛	6.67	
59⅞	49⅞	Consols 4%	59⅞	-⅛	6.77	..
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
193½	184⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2001	192⅞	+⅛	3.26	3.56
190⅞	180⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2003	190⅞	+⅛	3.22	3.43
123⅞	117⅞	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	122⅞	+⅛	3.17	3.35
204⅞	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	203⅞	+⅛	3.20	3.33
185⅞	170⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2009	184⅞	+⅛	3.15	3.26
194⅞	176⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2011	193⅞	+⅛	3.14	3.24
161⅞	144⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2013	160⅞	+⅛	3.13	3.22
174⅞	153⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2016	173⅞	+⅛	3.13	3.20
168⅞	147⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2020	167⅞	+⅛	3.14	3.21
141⅞	122⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2024	140⅞	+⅛	3.14	3.13
138⅞	119⅞	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	137⅞	+⅛	3.13	3.18

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
ASDA	160	9½	14½	16	7	10	13
(*153)	180	3½	7	10	20½	23	25
Abbey Nat	900	82½	103	130	33½	58	71
(*942½)	950	57	82½	105½	57	82	95½
All Leic	700	62½	78½	91	13	25	32
(*740½)	750	35	53½	64½	33½	47	55
Allid Dom	500	43	60½	68½	9	20½	24½
(*532)	550	21	32	42	30	42½	48
BAA	460	51	67	78	7	14	22
(*497½)	500	35½	43½	56½	21½	30	39
BAT Ind	500	51	68	76	16½	33	31½
(*551)	550	24½	45	51½	39½	59½	57½
Barclays	1400	120	156½	197½	63	94½	116
(*1445½)	1450	95½	131½	173	87½	119	140½
Bass	850	35½	56½	72	41½	60	55½
(*858½)	900	15½	45	50½	72½	90	85
Boots	850	56½	63	98½	27	40½	51½
(*872½)	900	33½	58	72	52½	66	73½
Br Airways	500	66	80½	93½	8½	17½	36½
(*549)	550	34½	54	66	26½	38	46½
BP	800	52	81	94½	33½	53½	61½
(*812)	850	31½	59½	71	59½	78½	87
Br Steel	130	14	20	24	4	6	10½
(*139)	140	8½	15	19	7½	10½	15½
C&W	500	43	63½	73½	21½	34	43
(*530)	550	21½	32½	50½	46	60½	69½
CU	800	77	99½	109½	36	63	84½
(*830)	850	52	74½	84½	61	88	89½
Glaxo W	1350	94½	122½	161½	52½	88½	100½
(*1379½)	1400	70	106½	136	77½	112½	125
HSBC	1500	137	196	216	116	178½	181½
(*1504½)	1600	84½	153	172	173	235½	237½
Halifax	650	50	63½	77	13	26½	31
(*630½)	700	27½	37	51½	34½	51½	55½
ICI	850	67½	79	100½	29	54½	64½
(*877)	900	36	55	76	53½	78½	90
Land Sec	950	47½	66	73	39½	45	56½
(*957)	1000	29	43	49½	68½	73	83½
M&S	600	44½	62½	71½	19	27½	32
(*627)	650	21	40½	47	43	53	57
Nat Pwr	550	29½	51	53½	27½	39	46
(*556)	600	12	32½	33½	58½	68	76
Nat West	900	67½	81½	108	48½	67	83
(*905)	950	44½	59	85	76	95	110
Reuters	650	63	66½	84½	24	39½	51
(*673½)	700	34½	42	59½	48½	65	72
R&Sun	550	33	48	61	30	47	51
(*550)	600	13½	28	41½	61½	77	81
Safeway	300	30½	42	47	9½	12	15½
(*322½)	330	14½	26½	32	23	26	30½
Sainsbury	460	40½	52	61½	12	16½	25
(*484)	500	18½	32	44	29	34½	43
Shell	400	28	—	—	15½	—	—
(*411)	417	19½	—	—	22½	—	—
SmKl Bch	575	48½	70½	—	20	38	—
(*599½)	600	35	58	76½	30½	50½	54
Std Char	650	57	75	96	41	59	64½
(*668½)	700	34½	49½	72½	68	84	90½
Thames W	900	43	67	83½	30	45½	54½
(*916)	950	29	44½	60	58	72	82
Vodafone	360	56	71	80½	11	19	25
(*401½)	390	38	53	64½	21½	31	38
Woolwich	280	25	29	33	6½	12	15½
(*292)	300	12	13½	23	15	22	25
Zeneca	1800	156½	198½	240½	40	83½	91
(*1832)	1900	99	144½	188½	81½	129	137

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BTR	200	20	26	30	11½	20	23
(*206½)	220	11½	17	22	22	31	34½
Blue Circ	330	33	41½	43½	12½	18½	22½
(*344)	350	18	27	29½	28	33½	38
Br Aero	1600	126	186	207	71	99	121
(*1625½)	1700	79½	117½	156½	125	150½	170½
Br Telcm	425	42	—	—	15½	—	—
(*455)	465	20½	—	—	33½	—	—
Cadbury	600	44	56½	67½	19	33½	37
(*617½)	650	20	32½	44	45½	60	64
Energy Gp	600	46½	54	65½	10½	16	15
(*637½)	650	23½	28½	36½	28½	35½	37
Gallaher	300	34	39½	43	10½	12	18
(*321)	330	17	23	28	23½	26½	33
GEC	390	23½	35	44½	19	23	33½
(*394½)	420	11	22	31½	37	40	50½

	Series	Calls Feb	May	—	Puts Feb	May	—
Grnd Met	500	66½	71	—	9	19	—
(*547½)	550	33	42	—	27½	40½	—

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Guinness	500	61½	72½	82	11½	18	20
(*546)	550	30½	43½	53½	31	38	41
Hanson	280	34	37½	40½	7	13	15
(*299)	300	23½	27½	30	15	22	24½
Imp Tob	390	18	27½	32	22	26	32½
(*394)	420	8	18	21	43½	45½	51
Kingfshr	800	70	85½	100	34	51½	57
(*821½)	850	46	60½	75	59	77	82
Lasmo	260	19½	28	32½	11½	17	18
(*264½)	280	11	19	23	21	27½	28½
Ladbroke	260	26½	35	41	8	14½	17
(*274)	280	15	25	31	17	24½	28½
LucasVar	180	19½	27	29	6½	9	11
(*190)	200	10½	17½	19	15½	18½	20½
P&O	600	61½	72	78½	14½	21½	26½
(*640½)	650	32	42½	51½	34½	43½	49½
Prudentl	650	53	67	82½	34	50	53½
(*661½)	700	32	44½	60	61½	77½	80½
Rio Tinto	700	72½	84	101½	26	46	56½
(*734½)	750	45½	58	77	49	71	81½
Redland	330	14½	15	14½	½	0½	½
(*342)	360	½	0½	—	18	19	18
R-Royce	220	28	33½	38	8	13	14½
(*237)	240	17	23½	28	16½	22	24
Tesco	460	42½	50½	60	14	23½	30
(*480½)	500	22½	30	40	33	43½	49½
Utd Bisc	200	21	24½	27	6	10½	12½
(*213)	220	10	14	17	13	21	23

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
BG PLC	261	17	29	34	4½	12½	15½
(*272½)	283	6½	18½	23½	15	23	26
BSkyB	420	34½	56½	66	7½	27½	26½
(*446½)	460	13	37	47	26½	48	46
Br Bio	110	12½	22	28½	4	12½	15½
(*117½)	120	7	18	24½	8½	17	21
Centrica	80	9	14½	16½	1½	5	7
(*87½)	90	3	9	12	5½	10	12
Dixons	650	49½	77½	95	8½	28	35
(*691)	700	18½	52	69½	29	50½	59½
EMI	420	44	63	76½	4	19½	27
(*456½)	460	19½	41½	56	18	39	46
Granada	850	25	53	69½	21½	44½	52
(*850)	900	8	32	47	54½	74½	81
GUS	700	29	58	74	16	37	43½
(*706½)	750	9½	35½	50½	46½	63½	72½
Lloyds TSB	650	47	75	90½	10½	32½	41½
(*684½)	700	19½	49	65½	32½	56½	66
Lonrho	80	9½	13½	16	1	6	8½
(*87½)	90	4	8½	11½	5	11½	13½
Norwich	360	14	31½	37½	9	19½	25
(*365)	390	5	19	24½	28	35½	42
Orange	240	15½	26½	32	3½	12½	15
(*251)	260	5	16	22	13	22	25
Railtrck	950	54	101	125½	20½	48	55
(*986)	1000	32	77½	102	41	71½	77½
Scot Pwr	460	29½	45½	63	6	24½	29½
(*482)	500	8	28½	45½	24	41½	49½
Tarmac	110	9½	15	17	1½	5	7
(*117)	120	4	10	12	6	9½	12
Tomkins	300	11	22½	30	6	16½	20
(*303½)	330	1½	11½	18	27	34	37
Unilever	450	27½	46	51½	7½	19½	24
(*470)	475	13	32½	38½	17	31	35½

November 27 Total: 42247 Calls: 24989 Puts: 17258

FTSE INDEX (*[illegible])

Strike	Calls Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jun
4750	237½	299	368	407½	—	82½	135	183	221	—
4800	198½	265½	337	375½	486	96½	153½	202	233½	291
4850	168	235	306	344	—	116½	175	221½	257½	—
4900	136	207	275	312	420	139	195	241	276½	328½
4950	105½	176½	243½	280½	—	160	216	261	296	—
5000	82	152½	215	252	359½	187	243½	285½	319½	371
5050	58½	129½	192	228½	—	211½	272	313	346½	—

November 27 Total: 6844 Calls: 6258 Puts: 586 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	118-23	118-25	118-15	118-17	48026
Previous open interest 182571	Mar 98	119-14	119-15	119-06	119-11	28447
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97	103.68	103.68	103.50	103.61	52876
Previous open interest 271859	Mar 98	102.90	102.95	102.83	102.93	6021
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Dec 97	103.96	103.96	103.83	103.92	4318
Previous open interest 19611	*Mar 98*	*103.30*	*103.23*	*103.17*	*103.25*	544
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 97	113.55	113.61	113.31	113.47	26293
Previous open interest 132357	Mar 98	113.86	113.93	113.70	113.83	5815
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	129.99	130.10	129.90	130.08	4749
	Mar 98	128.96	129.07	128.90	129.07	4102
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.31	92.32	92.29	92.32	9338
	Mar 98	92.26	92.26	92.24	92.26	7131
Previous open interest 778569	Jun 98	92.27	92.27	92.24	92.27	3557
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.18	96.20	96.18	96.20	11744
Previous open interest 1871052	Mar 98	96.07	96.07	96.04	96.06	21290
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.90	93.96	93.90	93.95	11874
Previous open interest 554643	Mar 98	94.67	94.73	94.66	94.72	11259
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	97.96	98.00	97.94	97.99	5687
Previous open interest 176022	Mar 98	97.96	98.02	97.93	98.00	13373
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.42	95.42	95.40	95.40	516
Previous open interest 38248	Mar 98	95.36	95.36	95.35	95.36	52
FTSE 100	Dec 97	4925.0	4941.0	4890.0	4900.0	3737
Previous open interest 69224	Mar 98	4970.0	4970.5	4962.0	4947.0	563

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 6½ Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 7⅛ ; 3 mth 7⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 7 ; 3 mth: 7 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7⅜-7¼	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7⅛-7½	
Sterling Money Rates:	7¼-7⅛	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹¹⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7⅝-7¹⁵⁄₁₆	7⅞-7¾
Interbank:	7¼-7⅛	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹¹⁄₃₂	7¹⁷⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7⅝-7¹¹⁄₁₆	7⅞-7¾

Overnight: open 7¼ close 7 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Depts:	7⅛	n/a	7⁹⁄₁₆	7¹¹⁄₁₆	7⅞
Sterling CDs:	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹¹⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹¹⁄₃₂	7½-7¹³⁄₃₂	7²¹⁄₃₂-7¹⁷⁄₃₂	7²⁵⁄₃₂-7²¹⁄₃₂
Dollar CDs:	5.67	n/a	5.79	5.81	5.93
Building Society CDs:	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7⅜	7¹⁹⁄₃₂-7½	7⅝-7¹¹⁄₁₆	7²⁵⁄₃₂-7⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⁹⁄₁₆	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5¹³⁄₁₆	5²⁷⁄₃₂-5²³⁄₃₂	5²⁹⁄₃₂-5²⁵⁄₃₂	5½-4¾
Deutschemark:	3½-3¼	3¹¹⁄₁₆-3⅝	3²⁵⁄₃₂-3²¹⁄₃₂	3⅞-3¾	4-3
French Franc:	3⅛-3¹⁄₁₆	3½-3⅜	3¹¹⁄₁₆-3⁹⁄₁₆	3¹³⁄₁₆-3¹¹⁄₁₆	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1½	2⅛-1⅞	2⅛-1¹⁵⁄₁₆	2¼-2	1½-½
Yen:	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	½-par	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $296.25-296.85 Close: $295.75-296.25 High: $297.00-297.50
Low: $295.75-296.25 AM: $296.15 PM: $296.00

Krugerrand: $299.00-301.00 (£178.75-180.75)

Platinum: $382.00 (£228.45) Silver: $5.26 (£3.145) Palladium: $206.50 (£123.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3173-3.3306	3.3271-3.3306	1⅛-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	60.710-61.010	60.883-60.986	23-18pr	62-55pr
Copenhagen	11.204-11.253	11.236-11.250	½-¼pr	1-½pr
Dublin	1.1254-1.1349	1.1314-1.1336	14-8pr	41-35pr
Frankfurt	2.9419-2.9556	2.9528-2.9554	¾-½pr	2¼-2⅛pr
Lisbon	300.57-301.95	301.57-301.91	¼-⅛pr	¾-½pr
Madrid	248.79-249.83	249.54-249.77	57-47pr	172-153pr
Milan	2884.2-2896.8	2892.0-2894.7	35-19pr	116-93pr
Montreal	2.3764-2.3860	2.3838-2.3860	0.77-0.71pr	1.44-1.36pr
New York	1.6670-1.6750	1.6740-1.6750	0.23-0.21pr	0.735-0.705pr
Oslo	12.029-12.082	12.070-12.082	½-¼pr	1½-1pr
Paris	9.8480-9.8940	9.8816-9.8892	3⅛-3⅛pr	9¼-9⅛pr
Stockholm	12.930-13.002	12.962-12.981	½-¼pr	¾-½pr
Tokyo	211.75-212.72	212.51-212.72	1⅛-1⅛pr	3½-3¼pr
Vienna	20.714-20.804	20.781-20.800	½-¼pr	2-1½pr
Zurich	2.3734-2.3896	2.3821-2.3852	1⅛-1⅛pr	3½-3¼pr

Source: Exstel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4727-1.4749
Austria	12.41-12.41
Belgium (Com)	36.38-36.42
Canada	1.4242-1.4247
Denmark	6.7169-6.7189
France	5.9064-5.9084
Germany	1.7646-1.7656
Hong Kong	7.7299-7.7309
Ireland	*1.4770-1.4790*
Italy	1729.02-1729.32
Japan	126.93-127.03
Malaysia	3.4900-3.5000
Netherlands	1.9886-1.9891
Norway	7.1930-7.1935
Portugal	180.25-180.35
Singapore	1.5920-1.5930
Spain	149.10-149.15
Sweden	7.7454-7.7504
Switzerland	1.4247-1.4255

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6740-1.6767
Australia dollar	2.4632-2.4683
Bahrain dinar	0.6225-0.6365
Brazil real*	1.8562-1.8608
China yuan	13.685-13.985
Cyprus pound	0.8500-0.8690
Finland markka	8.8300-8.9710
Greece drachma	457.0-467.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.9283-12.9377
India rupee	63.76-65.06
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5020-0.5130
Malaysia ringgit	5.8370-5.8572
New Zealand dollar	2.7120-2.7158
Pakistan rupee	72.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0125-6.1475
Singapore dollar	2.6626-2.6692
S Africa rand (com)	8.0330-8.2020
U A E dirham	6.0675-6.2035

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

SEAQ VOLUMES

3i	2,100	Legal & Gn	1,100
ASDA Gp	3,100	Lloyds TSB	12,700
Abbey Ntl	985	LucasVarity	1,800
Allnce & Leic	4,100	Marks Spr	1,600
Allied Dom	1,100	NatWst Bk	5,900
AB Foods	149	Nat Grid	4,600
BAA	2,100	Nat Power	6,500
BAT Inds	2,400	Next	752
BG	5,200	Norwich Un	3,400
BOC	857	Orange	3,500
BP	10,200	P & O	3,300
BSkyB	2,300	Pearson	326
BTR	2,300	PowerGen	754
BT	7,800	Prudential	1,300
Bk of Scot	500	RMC	97
Barclays	2,800	Railtrack	427
Bass	479	Rank Group	1,700
Billiton	6,500	Reckitt Col	528
Blue Circle	1,700	Reed Intl	2,900
Boots	710	Rentokil	996
BAe	1,000	Reuters	3,300
BA	3,200	Rio Tinto	1,600
British Land	1,100	Rolls Royce	3,000
Brit Steel	4,900	Royal & Sun	3,800
Cable Wire	4,200	Royal Bk Sct	3,400
Cadbury	1,200	Safeway	9,300
Carlton Cms	376	Sainsbury	3,800
Centrica	8,200	Schroders	144
Cm Union	879	Scot & New	980
Dixons	442	Scot Power	2,500
EMI	2,000	Svrn Trent	1,800
Energy Gp	80	Shell Trans	16,900
Enterpr Oil	1,100	Siebe	427
GKN	192	SmKl Bch	4,900
GRE	584	Smiths Inds	228
GUS	771	Std Chartd	1,600
Gen Acc	251	Sun Life	341
Gen Elec	3,200	TI Gp	992
Glaxo Well	4,100	Tesco	1,700
Granada	3,400	Thames W	1,400
Grand Met	7,500	Tomkins	602
Guinness	1,800	Unilever	3,100
HSBC	2,400	Utd Utilities	6,000
Halifax	2,300	Utd News	1,400
Hays	216	Vodafone	7,900
ICI	149	Whitbread	366
Kingfisher	2,000	Williams	2,000
LASMO	4,800	Wolseley	430
Ladbroke	1,400	Woolwich	1,400
Land Secs	1,100	Zeneca	3,100

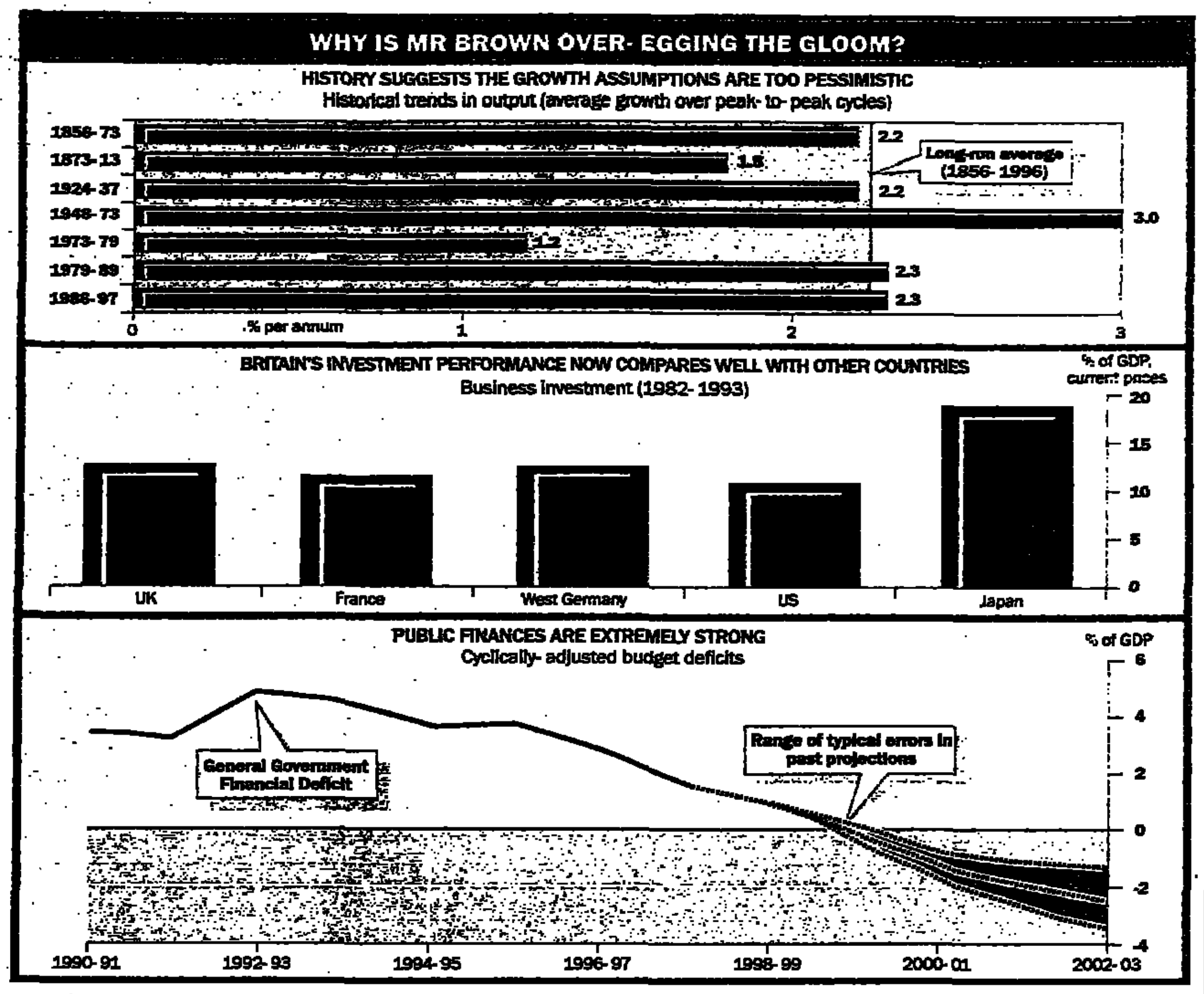
WALL STREET

	Nov 26 close	Nov 25 close
AMP Inc	43⅞	43⅝
AMR Corp	121¼	121⅞
AT & T	53⅞	55⅛
Abbott Labs	65¾	65⅞
Advanced Micro	21⅞	22¾
Aetna Life	74¾	74⅞
Ahmanson (HF)	59¾	59⅞
Air Prod & Chem	76¼	74⅞
AirTouch Comm	39	38¾
Albertson's	43⅞	43½
Alcan Alumnm	26⅞	27⅛
Allied Signal	37¾	36½
Alum Co of Am	67¾	68⅞
Amerada Hess	56	56⅞
Amer Express	78¼	77⅛
Amer Genl Corp	53¾	52⅞
Amer Home Pr	69¾	70¼
Amer Intl	101⅞	100¾
Amer Stores	19⅞	20⅛
Amer Standard	38⅞	39⅛
Ameritech	76	76⅝
Amgen	50½	50⅞
Amoco	89⅞	89⅞
Andrew Corp	26¼	26¾
Anheuser-Busch	43⅞	43⅞
Apple Computer	17¼	17½
Archer Daniels	21	21⅛
Armco	5⅛	5⅛
Armstrng Wrld	69⅞	68¼
Asarco	24¾	25⅛
Atl Richfield	81½	81⅞
Atmel Corp	22⅞	23¼
Auto Data Pro	56¼	56⅞
Avery Dennison	41⅞	41⅞
Avon Products	58⅞	57½
Baker Hughes	41⅞	42
Baltim Gas & El	30¼	30½
Banc One	51½	51½
BankAmerica	72¾	75⅛
Bank of NY	53¾	52
Bankers Tr NY	117½	117⅞
Barnett Banks	70¾	72¼
Bausch & Lomb	39¾	40
Baxter Intl	50⅞	50⅞
Bectn Dickinsn	51½	51½
Bell Atlantic	88¼	86⅞
BellSouth	54¼	55⅞
Black & Decker	36⅞	37⅛
Block (H&R)	40¼	40¼
Boeing	51½	51¼
Boise Cascade	33⅞	33¼
Boston Scien	45⅞	44¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	93¼	94⅞
Browning Ferris	35¾	36¼
Brunswick	33⅞	34
Burlington Nthn	91	90½
CMS Energy Corp	39	38¼
CPC Intl	102¼	102¼
CSX	52	52¾
Campbell Soup	55½	55½
Carolina Pwr	36⅞	37⅛
Case Corp	61⅛	60¼
Caterpillar	47⅞	47⅞
Central & SW	26⅛	25¾
Champion Intl	53	53
Chase Manhtn	108¼	109⅞
Chevron Corp	79⅞	81
Chrysler	33¼	33⅛
Chubb Corp	70⅞	70
Cigna Corp	166¼	164⅞
Citicorp	118¾	119¼
Clorox	77⅞	77½
Coastal Corp	58⅞	60¼
Coca Cola	63¾	64⅛
Coca Cola Ent	30¼	30¼
Colgate-Palm	65¾	66⅛
Columbia Gas	72⅞	72¼
ColumbiaHCA	29⅞	29⅞
Compaq Comp	61⅞	59¾
Comp Ass Int	78⅞	75¼
Conagra	36	37⅛
Cons Edison	38	38
Cons Nat Gas	59¼	59⅞
Cooper Inds	51½	51½
CoreStates	76	77⅛
Corning Inc	41⅞	41¼
C'wide Credit	41½	39¾
Crestar Finl	51⅞	50
Crown Cork	48	47¾
Dana Corp	45⅞	46¼
Dayton Hudson	67⅞	67¼
Deere	56⅛	57
Delta Air Lines	110¾	109¾
Deluxe Corp	34¼	34¼
Digital Equip	48⅞	49¼
Dillard Dept St	36½	37
Disney (Walt)	94¼	93¾
Dominion Res	38⅞	38¾
Donnelley (RR)	35½	34¾
Dover Corp	63¾	66⅞
Dow Chemical	95¾	97¼
Dow Jones	50¼	50½
Dresser	37⅛	38¼
Duke Power	52⅞	52⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	28¾	28¾
Du Pont	60⅞	61
Eastman Chem	60¼	60⅛
Eastman Kodak	60¼	60⅞
Eaton Corp	93¾	93⅞
Edison Intl	26⅞	27⅛
Elec Data Sys	38⅛	37⅛
Emerson Elec	55¾	55⅞
Engelhard Corp	17⅛	17¾
Enron Corp	38¾	38½
Entergy	25¾	25¼
Ethyl Corp	9⅛	9⅛
Exxon	61⅞	61¼
FMC Corp	73¼	72¾
FPL Group	55⅞	55½
Federal Express	66¼	64¼
Fifth Third Banc	69¾	69⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	66⅞	68⅛
Fluor Corp	36⅞	35⅞
Ford Motor	42¾	42½
Fort James	39⅞	39¼
Fortune Brands	36	35¾
Franklin Res	88⅞	89¾
GTE Corp	49¾	48¾
Gannett	57¼	56½
Gap Inc Del	53⅞	54⅞
Gateway 2000	28¾	28⅛
Gen Dynamics	85⅞	84⅛
Gen Electric	73⅛	72¾
Gen Mills	73⅞	74¼
Gen Motors	60¾	60⅞
Gen Reinsurance	200¼	199¾
Gen Signal	40¾	40⅞
Genuine Parts	31⅞	32⅛
Georgia Pac	85¼	85
Gillette	92⅛	92¼
Glaxo Wellc ADR	46¼	45⅞
Goodrich (BF)	43⅞	43⅞
Goodyear Tire	60½	61½
Great Lakes	44⅛	44⅞
Halliburton	54¼	52⅞
Harcourt-General	54¾	54⅞
Heinz (HJ)	49⅞	50⅞
Hercules	48⅛	48
Hershey Foods	61⅛	61⅞
Hewlett Packard	60⅞	61⅞
Hilton Hotels	31⅛	31½
Home Depot	55⅞	56⅞
Homestake Mng	10¾	11
Honeywell	65¾	66⅞
Household Intl	126¼	121¼
Houston Inds	23¾	24⅛
Humana	22⅛	22
ITT Corp	79⅞	74¾
Ikon Office	30	29⅞
Illinois Tool	54	53⅞
Illinova	24⅛	24¼
INCO	17¾	17⅞
Ingersoll Rand	39⅞	39
Inland Steel	19¼	19⅛
Intel Corp	76¼	76⅞
IBM	109⅞	107⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	48¼	48⅛
Intl Paper	47¼	47⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	62⅞	64
Kellogg	45¾	45¼
Kerr-McGee	66⅛	67¼
Kimberly-Clark	51	51⅞
Kmart	12⅛	12¾
Knight-Ridder	49¼	49¾
Lilly (Eli)	62¾	62
Limited Inc	24	24
Lincoln Nat	71⅛	71⅛
Litton	50⅛	49¼
Liz Claiborne	49¾	49⅛
Lockheed Martin	95⅞	93¾
Louisiana Pac	20	19¾
MCI Comm	43¼	43⅛
Manpower Inc	33⅞	34¾
Marriott Int	71⅞	71½
Marsh & McLnn	74½	74
Masco Corp	46⅞	46⅞
May Dept St	53¾	54¾
Maytag Corp	32¼	31⅞
McDonalds	48⅛	49½
McGraw Hill	68⅛	68
Mead Corp	63⅞	64⅛
Meditrust Corp	38¾	38¼
Medtronic	47¼	46⅞
Mellon Bk	56¾	55⅞
Merck Inc	94½	93⅞
Mercury Fin	0⅞	0¾
Merrill Lynch	69¼	68⅞
Microsoft	141⅞	139
Minnesota Mine	97¼	97¼
Mirage Resorts	23¼	24
Mobil Corp	71½	71½
Monsanto	43¾	44⅛
Morgan (JP)	114⅞	113⅛
Motorola Inc	63⅛	64⅞
Mylan Labs	22⅛	22⅞
Natl Semi	33	33¼
Natl Service Ind	46⅞	46½
Navistar Int	21⅞	21½
NY Times A	58⅛	57⅛
Newmont Mng	30⅛	30⅞
Nike B	49¼	49⅞
NL Industries	15⅞	16⅛
Nordstrom	57¼	60
Norfolk Sthrn	31½	31½
Nthn State Pwr	54⅞	55
Norwest Corp	36¼	36½
Occidental Pet	29⅛	30
Oracle	32¼	33⅛
Oryx Energy Co	26¾	27
Owens Corning	36⅛	36⅞
PPG Industries	57¼	56¾
PMI Group	65¼	65¾
PNC Bank	53⅛	52¾
PP&L Res	23¾	23⅛
Paccar Inc	53¼	51½
Pacificorp	23	22⅞
Pac Enterprises	35¾	35
Pall Corp	21	20⅞
Parker Hannifin	43⅞	44¼
Peco Energy	24⅛	24½
Penney (JC)	64⅛	63⅞
Pennzoil	65¾	67⅞
Pepsico	36⅞	37⅛
Pfizer	72⅞	73⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	34	34
Phelps Dodge	66½	67⅞
Philip Morris	43¾	43¾
Phillips Pet	48⅞	49⅛
Pitney Bowes	83¼	82¼
Polaroid	42¾	42½
Procter & Gmbl	75⅞	77¼
Providian	43⅛	43⅞
Pub Serv E & G	28¼	29¼
Quaker Oats	53¾	52⅞
Ralston Purina	93	93⅛
Raychem Corp	94¾	93¼
Raytheon	55	53⅞
Reebok Intl	39¼	40¼
ReliaStar Fin	36¼	36¼
Reynolds Metals	56⅞	57⅛
Rockwell Intl	48¼	47⅞
Rohm & Haas	91½	91½
Royal Dutch	52⅞	53
Rubbermaid	24¼	24⅛
SBC Comms	73½	69⅞
Safeco Corp	48¼	48⅛
St Paul's Cos	80	82¾
Salomon Inc	63¾	63¾
Sara Lee Corp	52¼	54⅞
Schering Plough	62⅞	63⅞
Schlumberger	81⅞	81½
Seagram	32⅛	32¼
Sears Roebuck	45¾	46¼
Shell Trans	42	42⅞
Sherwin Wllms	28⅛	27⅞
Silicon Graphics	13⅛	13¼
Snap-On-Tools	44¾	44⅛
Southern Co	23¾	23¾
SouthTrust	54¼	52¼
Sprint Corp	58½	57
Stanley Works	44⅛	43¾
Sun Company	40¼	40⅞
Sun Microsys	35¼	36¾
Suntrust	71	70⅞
Supervalu	38⅞	39¼
Synovus Fin	32¼	31⅞
Sysco Corp	44¼	44⅞
TRW Inc	56⅞	57¼
TIG Hldgs	32⅞	32½
Tandy Corp	44¼	43¼
Temple Inland	57	56⅞
Tenet Healthcare	31½	30⅞
Tenneco	42¾	42⅞
Texaco	56⅞	57¼
Texas Inst	48¼	49⅞
Texas Utilities	40	39⅞
Textron	59	58⅛
Thermo Elect	37¼	37⅛
Time Warner	58½	58⅛
Times-Mirror A	58⅞	60
Timken	34¼	35⅛
Torchmark	40¼	40⅛
Toys R Us	34⅛	33½
Transamerica	108½	108½
Travelers	49⅞	49⅞
Tribune	56⅛	55⅞
UST Inc	31	30⅞
US Bancorp	107⅞	106¼
UAL	84⅛	85¼
Unitrin	61¼	62½
US Inds	25⅞	26½
US West Comm	45	44½
US West Media	26⅞	26½
USAirways Group	54¼	53⅞
USX Marathon	34⅞	35⅞
Unicom	25⅞	26¼
Unilever NV	58½	57⅞
Union Camp	59⅛	59⅞
Union Carbide	44¾	44⅞
Union Pacific	58½	57⅞
Unisys Corp	14¾	14⅞
USF&G Corp	20⅞	20⅞
United Tech	74¼	73⅞
Unocal Corp	39⅞	39¾
VF Corp	46¼	46¾
Wal-Mart Stores	39½	39⅞
Warner-Lambert	139⅞	142¼
Waste Mngmt	24⅞	24¼
Wells Fargo	307	301½
Westinghouse El	29⅞	29⅛
Weyerhaeuser	52	52⅛
Whirlpool	55¼	55⅞
Whitman	26¼	26⅞
Winn Dixie	40	40¾
Witco Corp	43⅛	43¾
Woolworth	21⅛	21⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	78⅞	80¾
Xerox	75⅞	73⅞
Xilinx Inc	34⅞	33⅛

هكذا من الأصل

Santa Gordon in conflict with Ebenezer Brown

The Treasury's view of inflation is sharply at odds with that of the Bank



Gordon Brown must have been delighted by the reaction to his mini-Budget. Nothing could be more congenial to the spin doctors, especially in a week of rebellions over cuts in welfare benefits for the disabled and single parents, than cartoons of a jolly Chancellor in a Santa hat, backed up by TV clips of children in playgroups and pensioners in front of gas fires.

Most importantly, this trivialisation was remarkably successful in distracting attention from the mini-Budget's main point. This was, as usual, to be found in the small print of the Budget documents relating to the Treasury's fiscal forecasts and economic assumptions, was far more important than rag-bag of minor changes in taxation and welfare policy which dominated his speech. Before going on to discuss these, one of the spending measures does deserve special attention: the decision to throw away £400 million (enough to finance all the disputed benefits for single parents) on an indiscriminate "Christmas heating" handout to all pensioners, regardless of their means. It is hard to improve the comment of *Andrew Dilnot, director of the* Institute for Fiscal. Already, he noted, the Government had turned its new autumn pre-Budget report "into just another occasion each year when the Chancellor feels obliged to hand out brightly coloured lollipops to MPs and the popular press".

Now let us turn to the more serious issues. Two, in particular, are worth noting. First, the Chancellor's assumptions about the economy's long-term growth potential and about the lowest sustainable rate of unemployment are both very pessimistic. Secondly, even on the basis of the Treasury's very cautious assumptions about growth and employment, a dramatic reduction in public borrowing appears to be on the cards in the years leading up to the next election — a reduction which the Chancellor preferred to gloss over in his presentation.

Focusing first on the economic assumptions, the Treasury believes that Britain's long-term sustainable growth rate is only 2.25 per cent, despite the fact that growth has averaged 2.5 per cent in the 50 years since 1947 and that the average growth rate in the period of economic history most closely comparable to the present one — the 1950s and 1960s was over 3 per cent. To justify its pessimism about the underlying rate of productivity growth in the British economy, the Treasury has to go all the way back to the mid-19th century. Only thus can it produce a slice of economic *history bad enough to generate* an average growth rate of 2.25 per cent (see top chart). Unfortunately the Treasury does not explain what relevance the age of the steam-driven handlooms might have to contemporary events.

The Treasury also assumes that the level of capacity use and of unemployment attained by the economy today are the best that can be sustained without forcing inflation to accelerate.

Despite this slowdown, which would imply unemployment rising again from the middle of next year, the Treasury believes that inflation will accelerate over the next 12 months. This disquieting forecast is sharply at odds with the view of the Bank of England, which this month predicted that inflation would decline through next year. It seems to take no account of events in Asia and the deflationary pressures even in the strong American economy. The Treasury's anxiety about inflation also sits oddly with its assumption that the pound will remain at about its present level throughout next year. If the Treasury is right, then heaven forfend what might happen to inflation should the pound fall sharply, as the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England until recently believed that it should.

All this alarm about inflation comes back to the Treasury's assumption that the economy has already hit its capacity limits and that unemployment has fallen to its *lowest sustainable rate. What* the Treasury does not point out, however, is that equally "authoritative" studies were suggesting three years ago that the NAIRU was 9 per cent or even higher — or that in America estimates of this supposedly stable level of unemployment have declined year by year from more than 8 per cent to around 4 per cent today. There are, of course, plenty of econometric studies which claim to show that the lowest sustainable rate of unemployment — also known as the "Non Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment" or NAIRU — happens to be equal to the present unemployment rate, which the Treasury admits to be nearer 7 per cent, rather than the 5.1 per cent suggested by official figures.

As a result, the Treasury is forecasting a sharp slowdown in economic growth, from 3.5 per cent this year to between 2.25 and 2.75 per cent in 1998 and 1.5 to 2 per cent in 1999.

The most reasonable inference to draw from the economists' abysmal record in estimating this supposedly rock-bottom level of unemployment, is that the NAIRU, if it exists at all, can only be established by a process of trial and error. Only by allowing the economy to keep growing and by encouraging unemployment to keep falling, will we ever find out how many people can be put back to work before inflation begins to accelerate. *This is exactly the* experiment which the Fed has been conducting in America for the past five years. The outcome, so far, has been the an unemployment rate of 4.5 per cent, combined with the lowest annual inflation rate since 1965. Given the paucity of evidence to back up the pessimism about inflation, unemployment and growth, it is natural to ask what could be motivating the Chancellor to be so grim. One possible answer leads to the remarkable prospects for public finances.

Even under its gloomy economic assumptions, the Treasury forecasts that the General Government Financial Deficit (a more accurate measure of deficits than the traditional PSBR) will disappear by 1999/2000 and will be replaced by a huge surplus in 2001/02, the last year of the present parliament. The size of this surplus depends on what decisions are made in the coming years on pbulc spending. In the unlikely event that the new Government stuck, even beyond 1999, to the extremely tight long-range spending plans inherited from the Tories, the surplus would be 2.4 per cent of GDP, equivalent to £20 billion in today's money. If spending reverted to the 1.5 per cent real average growth rate of the past 20 years, the surplus would be only slightly smaller, at 1.6 per cent of GDP. And even if real public spending exapnded by 2.25 per cent annually, in line with the economy's supposed trend *growth rate, there would still* be a surplus equivalent to 0.9 per cent of GDP — and rising in future years.

Imagine now what would happen if the economy actually grew faster than 2.25 per cent and if unemployment continued falling. The Treasury coffers would be overflowing from 1999 onwards. There would be scope for massive spending bonanzas and tax giveaways just before the next election. This is a prospect which the Chancellor and the Prime Minister must certainly relish, but they have to keep it quiet. The last thing they want is to arouse premature expectations — or to admit that the country's astoundingly strong public finances were actually inherited from the Tories. Far better to create the impression that all the extra money has been conjured up by the good stewardship of the Labour government — and then to surprise the voters with some really big lollipops just before the election. As for the disabled, the single parents, the universities, the hospitals and schools and all the other deserving supplicants to the Treasury — *they will just have* to suffer for a few more years for a more convenient point in the electoral cycle.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Airport users want high-quality shops

From the Director of Corporate and Public Affairs of BAA

Sir, Sir Terence Conran has used letter columns of newspapers for some time to campaign about retailing at Heathrow, steadfastly refusing to acknowledge or accept the following facts:

First, we regularly interview hundreds of thousands of passengers to establish their views and needs; 90 per cent say they want to see high-quality shopping facilities at airports. Indeed, they want more.

Secondly, it is absurd to suggest that airports are really out-of-town shopping centres. The maximum space devoted to retail at any of our airports is 12 per cent. Of 55,888 people recently interviewed at Heathrow, only 89 were there purely to shop. And, frankly, they were misguided, because they *could shop only landside,* where inevitably there's a more limited range of shops than they could find in their local high street.

Thirdly, it is equally absurd to suggest that the taxpayer subsidises BAA via duty-free. The opposite is the case. It is the retailing that underpins the £1.5 million BAA spends every day providing this country with its airport infrastructure; in no other country in the world is this level of infrastructure provided to the country free of charge. In addition, BAA is worth more than £500 million to the Exchequer via taxes of various kinds, VAT, airport duty, etc — a huge contribution.

Finally, Sir Terence questions our prices. Only a year back the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigated BAA's retailing and concluded: "BAA has ensured that prices are no higher than in high street outlets, and has increased choice, policies which, as shown in BAA's quality service monitor, are reflected in passengers' perception of genuinely good value for money. The general impression from this evidence is that passengers find the experience of passing through the three South East airports more enjoyable than was previously the case."

(I don't know whether Sir Terence drinks Bells Whisky, *but he would have paid £17.10* for a litre in the high street last week and obtained one at Terminal 1 for £8.30).

Sir Terence's notoriety ensures he obtains publicity for his opinions; let's hope the facts will receive equal attention.

Yours faithfully,
DES WILSON,
Director of Corporate and Public Affairs,
BAA,
Corporate Office,
130 Wilton Road, SW1.

Prices charged by tax-free stores appear too high

From Mr Ken Graham

Sir, Does the arrogance of Des Wilson, commenting on behalf of BAA, reflect the attitude of the company to its customers, and taxpayers?

Regardless of Sir Terence Conran's motives and Mr Wilson's personal opinion of Sir Terence, I believe that Sir Terence's views are shared by many travellers such as myself.

I have long been appalled at the prices charged by "tax-free" stores, for goods which are sold at a slight discount to high street prices, and which, in no way reflect the saving made as a result of the absence of tax.

This is particularly illustrated in restaurants and bars at BAA sites, where the *prices charged are often* higher than those for identical products sold outside the airport, despite the absence of tax.

Mr Wilson should take note, that Sir Terence certainly does speak for many passengers.

Yours faithfully,
KEN GRAHAM,
20 Kingston Avenue,
Stony Stratford,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire.
ken.graham@dial.pipex.com

Duty-bound to point out Heathrow chaos

From Ms Jayne Barnard

Sir, I had to laugh when Des Wilson, speaking on behalf of BAA, claimed last week that his organisation had been working hard to create more retailing, rather than less chaos, at international airports because that is "what airport customers want".

I have exited the UK twice in the last six weeks, each time fully intending to purchase duty-free gifts. Instead, because of the lack of queue-control and other evidence of mismanagement at Heathrow, I found myself with only minutes to spare before departure. I never spent a cent. I must question whether this is *what airport customers — let* alone retailers — are seeking.

Yours sincerely,
JAYNE BARNARD,
42 Eton Avenue,
London NW3.
<jwbarn@facstaff.wm.edu.

Benefits of abolishing BAA's duty-free shops

From Mr Michael Boatman

Sir, As a frequent business traveller to the US and Europe, who passes through BAA terminals up to 50 times a year, I hasten to lend support to the comments of Sir Terence Conran (*The Times*, November 20).

My hope is that duty-frees will be abolished by 1999 despite the current campaigns being waged by BAA and some airlines. I see the effects as wholly beneficial. There will be fewer shops in the departure lounges so more space for passengers to relax and much less congestion when they try to reach departure gates. Cabin baggage on European flights will reduce by 30 to 50 per cent, there will *be space in the lockers and less* fuel consumed. With less money for BAA from retail franchises we can expect a hefty increase, perhaps £10 per ticket, in airport taxes. It will hardly break the bank for business trips but may reduce domestic and charter flights.

Fewer flights, especially from Heathrow, should be a surer route to reducing congestion on approach roads than the high-speed rail link that was emasculated when the cross-rail scheme was cancelled. In addition, we all benefit from closure of a tax loophole, which is incompatible with the concept of "a single market".

Should anyone doubt that duty-free prices are a rip-off, I suggest they take a walk in Gibraltar town. Ordinary retailers sell whisky as low as £2 per standard bottle and even quality brands are below £6 per litre, around 50 per cent of BAA's "duty-free", "profit-intensive" prices.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BOATMAN
Boatman Consulting,
15 Ringwood Avenue,
Redhill, Surrey
<Boatmans@compuserve.com

Financing of airport facilities

From Mr Gerald Clark

Sir, Des Wilson of BAA suggests that national airports and infrastructure are provided free of charge on the back of airport retailing operations. Having used Heathrow twice this past week, purchasing services and expensive catering en route, does he really expect me to believe that there were no charge elements for airport facilities included in the base cost of my airline ticket?

Yours faithfully,
GERALD CLARK, 16 Mansel Street, Swansea.

Happy to be identified as a nobody

From Mr Richard Griffith

Sir, Having read Sir Terence Conran's letter and Des Wilson's reply, the latter is a disgraceful and unjustified personal attack which reeks of guilt. I should be pleased to be identified as one of the nobodies to whom Des Wilson refers.

Yours anonymously,
RICHARD GRIFFITH,
Cuatro Vientos 31, Atalya,
07811 Sant Vicent de sa Cala, Ibiza, Spain.

Business ambassadors

From the Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, You are, of course, right to conclude that Robin Cook's "idea of bringing business expertise to bear on the Foreign Office is admirable" (City Editor's commentary, November 25). I would, however, take issue with your suggestion that business leaders acting as ambassadors for Britain cannot do much to help small companies.

Nothing could be further from the truth. This latest initiative builds on the partnership we are developing with the private sector. In particular it gives the Foreign Office a better understanding of the needs of all exporters — large and small — and will complement the day to day commercial work of our posts overseas, much of which is devoted to helping small and medium sized exporters.

Indeed, 75 per cent of the chargeable work by our commercial sections is for companies with under 500 staff. Nor is this initiative at the expense of more funding for overseas trade fairs. The joint Foreign Office-DTI Export Forum study, initiated this summer, is aimed at improving assistance to smaller companies.

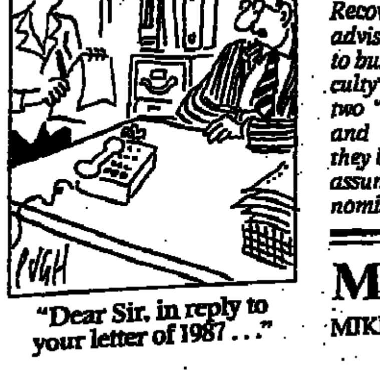
Margaret Beckett has already announced the largest ever programme of support for UK exporters taking part in overseas trade fairs and outward missions in 1998-99.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK FATCHETT,
Minister of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office, SW1.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mirror image

HELEN LIDDELL, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was at the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children the other day. Stalin's granny, as she is known to the pensions industry bosses, was giving a speech on pensions reform. Nothing like getting to them early, is there? But I have been forwarded a resumé of her career, as provided to the NSPCC by the Treasury to remind everyone who the guest speaker was. "Helen Liddell was formerly at the *Scottish Daily Record* and took part in the successful flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers," it says. I suppose that's one way of putting it. Alternatively, "Helen Liddell was one of the many sycophants who surrounded the late Robert Maxwell, took the Maxwell shilling and crawled largely unscathed from the wreckage" might have done just as well. Quite a few of those around. I still remember the day Peter Jay tried to bully me into withdrawing something I wrote about him while he was part of the same entourage. But we mustn't reopen old wounds, must we?



"Dear Sir, in reply to your letter of 1987..."

● *WHILE I have every sympathy for the employees of White Knight and three associated businesses where the DTI has just put in the official receiver, we can take some slight comfort from the collapse. White Knight and Sykes Corporate Recovery "provide insolvency advisory and related services to businesses in financial difficulty", says the DTI. The other two "provide debt avoidance and related services". Until they became casualties, I must assume, of the current economic boom.*

Man of steel

MIKE GRANT, head of the Treasury team at Eurotunnel and the man who toured the globe talking to all those banks, has told the company he is leaving to do a three-month senior management course at Harvard. He has decided that the final adoption of the debt restructuring plan is a good time to make the break. He has no job to go to but will surely not be short of offers. Sir Alastair Morton, former chairman at Eurotunnel and not a man easily pleased, referred to Grant thus at Morton's last results briefing a year ago: "Mike Grant has a backbone and a heart of steel."

Radio ga-ga

A SPLENDID innovation at the Priory Hotel in Bath, owned by Andrew Brownsword, the publicity-shy backer of Bath rugby football club who made a reported £170 million fortune from selling his greetings card firm. In every room the Priory has genuine old-fashioned 1930s and 1940s wireless sets, those old brown bakelite jobs that a few readers may remember from the days before the Japanese ruled the consumer electronics industry. But the sets have been carefully customised so none can receive Mr Branson's Virgin FM service. Brownsword, it seems, cannot abide Chris Evans, the carrot-haired yob who does a comic turn on Virgin every morning.

● *A WHILE back, Evans, the women's clothing retailer specialising in the larger figure, started an on-line mail order system, allowing customers to avoid the embarrassment of actually going into the shops and picking up their size 18s. The company seems to have tapped into a hidden market. Its research suggests most sales are to transvestites.*

Tidey sum

THE SUM of £2 million has been handed over by Associated British Foods to the director responsible for the sale of its Irish supermarkets in May. Donald Tidey retired in June and has departed with this reward for his "exceptional" service, according to the accounts. The sale booked a £420 million profit for ABF, so perhaps shareholders should consider it money well spent, as Tidey was responsible for the growth of the chain before it was sold to Tesco. But some in the City believe there is more to the award than this.

Tidey became briefly famous when he was kidnapped by the IRA in the early 1980s and freed after a gun battle. He showed remarkable courage during his ordeal, and great resilience thereafter. Some wonder if the money was not, at least in part, ABF chairman Garry Weston's way of paying a tribute. Alas, Weston is notoriously secretive, and ABF was not returning calls yesterday.

MARTIN WALLER

Donald Tidey after his release from the IRA

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIRS OF GUINNESS

The attitude was one of win at any price

The inspectors say they were faced constantly with untruthful, incomplete, and sharply conflicting testimony. They were often forced to decide between two or more accounts of events that were hopelessly at variance, relying on assessment of several witnesses and the plausibility of their testimony. On occasion they found themselves unable to accept any of the accounts. Below we extract the report on the Guinness affair.

WE WOULD, of course, have preferred our findings to have been made available more rapidly. Some of what occurred in 1986 has already been exposed to public gaze, as a result of the evidence given in the criminal proceedings, including substantial extracts from our interviews with some of the defendants. But much has not: many areas of the canvas remained unexamined in the criminal process. Nor has any systematic account of what happened ever been publicly available. This we hope now to provide. Despite a certain distance in the past, we believe the events we describe in this report retain not only interest, but current relevance.

Our repeated journeys over limited patches of territory were undoubtedly necessary, for from the start we were faced constantly with untruthful, incomplete, and sharply conflicting testimony. We were often forced to decide between two or more accounts of events that were hopelessly at variance, relying upon our assessment of the several witnesses and the plausibility of their testimony. On occasion we found ourselves unable to accept — or to accept in its entirety — any of the accounts presented to us. We were also

WITNESSES

confronted by the reverse problem, where witnesses had aligned their stories and evidence. This sometimes came to naught, when some of the witnesses were unable to withstand the pressure of sustained lying to us, or others were unable to provide satisfactory answers to questions outside their "brief": sometimes, also, the common story was in itself implausible or the witnesses quite unconvincing in retelling it.

We were denied the evidence of two important witnesses: Thomas Ward, a Washington DC lawyer and former non-executive director of the company, and Ivan Boesky, the former US arbitrageur. We tried on numerous occasions to interview Mr Ward, both in the UK and in the US. After much effort it became clear that Mr Ward did not intend to be interviewed by us, despite that, as a former officer of the company, he was bound to attend for interview if so requested under the terms of Section 434 of the Companies Act 1985. On March 15, 1994, the High Court made a committal order of six months' imprisonment against Mr Ward on the ground of his failure to comply with Section 434. A warrant for his arrest was issued and remains outstanding, capable of execution should re-enter the UK. In failing to co-operate with our inquiry Mr Ward seriously failed in his duty as a director, and later former director, of an English company. As will appear from the body of this report, this was no more than the final chapter in the lengthy saga of Mr Ward's failings as an officer of Guinness.

Of Mr Boesky's failure to give oral evidence to us there is perhaps less to criticise. Unlike Mr Ward, he was not an officer, or former officer, of the company, and, being in the US and therefore out of the jurisdiction, was under no legal obligation to assist us. Nevertheless, Mr Boesky made much of his ready co-operation with the authorities and it is right to record that, so far as our inquiry was concerned, there were serious limits to that co-operation. Though his evidence would have been valuable, it was not in the event vital, and we do not believe that its absence has prevented us from establishing a substantially accurate picture of the events in which he was involved.

An education from Parnes on bid battles

THE TACTICS

DURING the Bell's bid conducted by Guinness prior to bidding for Distillers Olivier Roux picked the brains of Anthony Parnes on the subject of market tactics in acquisition battles. He found it educative.

"Parnes told me that the City worked on the flowing and ebbing sentiments and whims which were largely dictated by the share price.

"It seemed to me a short-term view based on emotion at the expense of long-term fundamentals and careful analysis — I learnt from Parnes that market tactics were a natural and entirely accepted and necessary part of contested bids. These tactics involved purchasing shares in the offeree or opponent company as a blocking strategy or to unsettle the share price, organising supporters to purchase one's own company's shares to maintain price levels, or to purchase offeree's shares in order to have them used to boost acceptances of the offer.

"If supporters were involved it was the practice to make sure that any losses were covered through an informal agreement to that effect. He did imply however that one did run the risk of being reprimanded by the Takeover Panel if the supporters' dealings should have been disclosed but were not. He implied that this was a grey area and as most hostile bids involved these tactics and were therefore widespread there was no real cause for concern."

It became apparent that this view of market tactics in takeover battles was not restricted to Mr Parnes.

An increased offer by Argyll and clearance from the MMC put pressure on Guinness to raise its offer, and there was considerable discussion and argument. Mr Saunders was most anxious to increase the offer, but most of the advisers, in particular Cazenove and Morgan Grenfell, were strongly opposed to this.

Mr Saunders' histrionic reaction at one stage was to ask loudly for the telephone number of SG Warburg, hinting that a less pusillanimous merchant bank would do his bidding. Eventually, he yielded and agreed that the offer would not be increased, and an announcement to this effect was made on April 3, 1986.

From March 20, 1986, the day before Argyll's third offer, to the high point of the Guinness share price on April 14, 1986, the share price moved from 298p to 353p, an increase of 18.5 per cent against a fall of 0.2 per cent in the FTSE 100 index. During the same period the Argyll share price rose 8.9 per cent. Despite such general indications that the market in Guinness shares was not a normal one during the period of the bid, we were not prepared for the enormity of the support operation as revealed by a detailed analysis of transactions.

We found that some 78 million Guinness shares (some 25 per cent of the issued share capital) were purchased by supporters of the Guinness cause from January 20 to April 18, 1986, more than half being bought in the last two weeks. The supporters were: J Rothschild Holdings, Ronson interests, Mrs Seulberger-Simon, Henry Ansbacher clients, LF Rothschild, Guinness Pension Funds, Schenley Industries Inc, CIFCO and Berisford Capital Corporation, Z-Bank, Mr Boesky's interests, Bank Leu, Mr Saunders, Sir Jack Lyons & clients, Furstenberg, Morgan Grenfell.

Parnes: risk of reprimand

Gerald Ronson, the Heron chief, leaving a London court hearing in October 1987

Ronson saw no reason for being excluded from the feast

CAZENOVE

WE HAVE had conflicting evidence as to the extent of Cazenove's freedom in the use of the firepower conferred on it by a JRH investment order (as increased in the course of the bid). Nils Taube, director of J Rothschild Holdings, and Nicholas Roditi told us that Cazenove had full discretion as to the timing and price of purchases. David Mayhew, a Cazenove partner, would report back the deals to Mr Taube after he had made them. While Mr Taube could, of course, express displeasure at that stage, in practice he only did so when the price reached 345/350p towards the end of the bid. Even then, Mr Taube's reaction was one of "if you must, you must", meaning that he would go along with such high prices if Mr Mayhew thought it necessary for the bid's success.

Mr Mayhew maintained, by contrast, that in the almost daily discussions, which (as is agreed by Mr Taube) Cazenove had with JRH on a range of dealing topics, advance approval was obtained to all purchases of Guinness shares, within agreed parameters of size and price. We think that the account given by Mr Taube and Mr Roditi is closer to the true picture. The possibility of purchases on a particular day would no doubt have featured in the regular discussions between Cazenove and JRH, but we do not believe that specific advance approval (even within parameters) was sought or given systematically in the way suggested by Mr Mayhew. Mr Taube was, of course, kept in the picture and had no objection to the way in which Cazenove was executing JRH's standing investment order, albeit he experienced and voiced some limited reluctance towards the end. That he could at any time have withdrawn the balance of that investment order, does not detract from the essential position that at significant moments in the bid Cazenove were in practice masters of a formidable reserve of purchase-power entrusted to them by JRH.

> ❛We do not believe specific advance approval was sought or given in the way suggested by Mr Mayhew❜

The use of several different brokers was designed to create the illusion of numerous buyers and hence greater activity and interest. Neither the indemnity nor purchases were disclosed under the City Code.

Throughout the period of the bid Gerald Ronson was, as he told us, in regular contact with Mr Saunders, who would telephone him every ten days or so to ascertain Mr Ronson's views on market or City reaction to the Guinness bid. The two men also met over breakfast at the New Piccadilly Hotel on February 7, 1986, when Mr Saunders gave Mr Ronson a commission to value certain hotel properties owned by Distillers. This was no doubt the kind of business opportunity which Mr Ronson had hoped to encourage and to receive more of from an enlarged Guinness group in return for his supportive attitude on share purchases. His idea of an appropriate quid pro quo was, however, to grow more ambitious as those purchases increased.

The limit of £10 million was reached on February 19, 1986, at which point there was a pause before buying resumed on March 6, 1986. Mr Ronson appears to have agreed to a revised limit, probably of £15 million in the first instance, being raised in due course to £18 million. That new limit was reached on March 27, 1986. Mr Parnes sought still further purchases. Mr Ronson was prepared to contemplate a fresh ceiling of £25 million, but only on fresh terms. Rumours had reached him of fat success-related fees negotiated in both camps by banks and other advisers. Mr Ronson saw no reason to be excluded from the feast: "I said to [Parnes] This is all very good stuff, but tell me, if you are successful, what is our success fee if we go to £25 million? His reply was that he thought 20 per cent of the total exposure would be a reasonable success fee — I said, 'That may be your idea, but do you have the approval of the company?', to which he replied the following day that the answer was 'Yes'".

Quite apart from illegality and impropriety, the agreement and payment of a £5 million success fee reflects a remarkably cavalier approach to the use of Guinness funds. The indemnity protected Heron against both loss through a fall in the share price and against carrying costs (ie, interest). Accordingly, Mr Saunders caused Guinness to agree and pay to Heron a sum equivalent to 20 per cent of its capital outlay over and above the payment of conventional interest, though that capital was committed for only a very few months (much of it for much less), and was protected against any risk of loss.

Moreover, his agreement to a £5 million success fee secured for Mr Saunders only a modest increase in the firepower — perhaps in the region of £7 million. Mr Saunders was clearly so concerned to obtain any possible further support for the Guinness share price in the last two weeks of the bid that he was little interested in the cost of such support. The attitude was, it seems, one of "win at any price".

Mayhew: daily discussions

A contempt for truth in part of City thought respectable

CONCLUSIONS

THAT this market support operation was an enterprise of deception, there can be no doubt. It is impossible to tell the extent to which the deception succeeded in fact. It was widely known throughout the market that there was extensive buying of Guinness shares: cynical references to support operations appeared in the press. It is unlikely that many holders of a large block of Distillers shares would have taken the share price at face value or expected that it would necessarily survive at that level after the close of the bid.

In the present case, however, we feel that even a sceptical holder of Distillers shares might well have underestimated the remarkable extent of the support operation and the corresponding discount which should be made for it. And not all holders of Distillers shares would have been sufficiently sophisticated or well-informed to ignore the current share price in reaching their decision on which offer to accept, or whether to sell in the market.

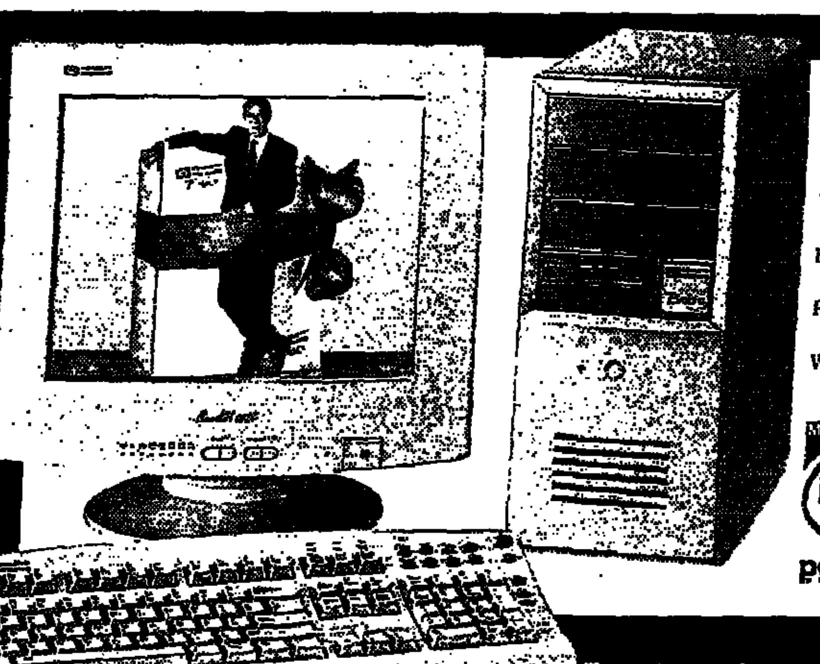
We can see no reason why an operation with such deceptive purpose should be regarded as acceptable. In the most fundamental sense, it aims at the creation of a false market: the company or its agents or advisers set out to move the share price to an artificial level by procuring or stimulating purchases not motivated by considerations related to the investment potential of the stock, their involvement or its nature being concealed to avoid exposing the contrivances underlying the resulting price.

To date, perhaps while awaiting our report, the Takeover Panel has taken no action arising out of the share support operation. It has, however, reacted to the concert party purchase of 10.6 million Distillers shares on April 17, 1986. On September 2, 1987 the Panel ordered Guinness to pay compensation to Distillers' shareholders who might have opted for a cash alternative increased in accordance with Rule 11.1. Though no doubt the result of practical considerations which we well understand, this approach was based on an unreal premise.

If, before the end of the bid, the Panel had been duly apprised of the concerted nature of the purchase, it would have had to rule that the bid must lapse, no increase in the offer being possible in the last 14 days of the bid, or — possibly — to order a divestment of the shares. No question would thus have arisen of extending the price of 731p to all Distillers' shareholders. In practice, if disclosure had ever been contemplated, the shares would never have been purchased. What effect the excess concerted purchases had on the outcome of the rival bids is an impossible speculation, but it is conceivable that without them success might have gone to Argyll.

The compensation to former Distillers' shareholders resulting from the Panel's ruling was in the region of £65 million. That is a figure which Mr Saunders — and perhaps more neutral observers — would almost certainly have regarded as a reasonable additional expense to secure Distillers. Once consummated, a takeover cannot realistically be reversed and the case illustrates the difficulty of providing *ex post facto* justice for a losing contestant or accepting shareholders.

What (if any) additional changes could assist in practice is a large subject but merits close examination by the Panel and its sponsoring bodies. Though our sensibilities may have been numbed by long confrontation with the evidence, three features still shine disturbingly through. Firstly, the cynical disregard of laws and regulations; secondly, the cavalier misuse of company monies; thirdly, a contempt for truth and common honesty: all these in a part of the City thought respectable.



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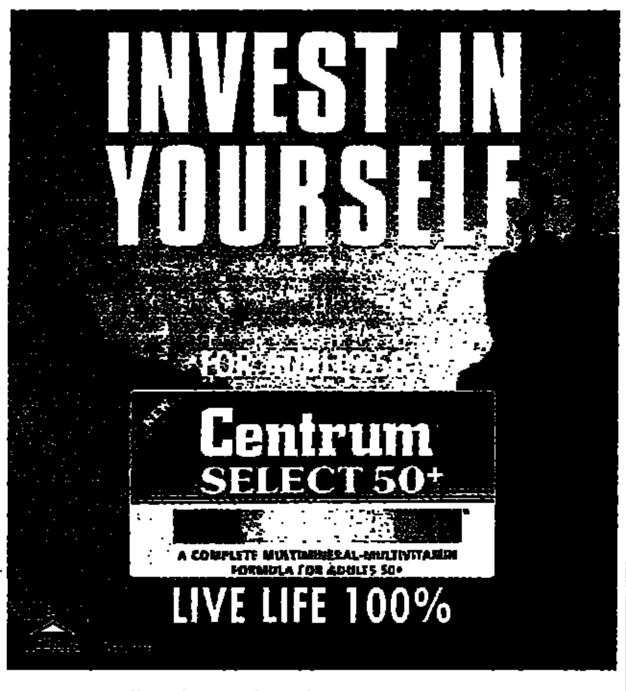
TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	139.88	147.12	- 0.35	
Do NAV to Dec 19	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	108.58	116.89	+ 0.10	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	108.93	108.93		
Cash	953.75	958.52	..	5.35
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	354.28	376.60†	+ 3.10	1.79
UK Small Cos	78.01	83.42†	+ 1.70	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	96.20	102.89	+ 0.20	2.11
General UK Index	2106.59	2208.32	- 3.00	5.76
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	80.87	83.54	+ 0.29	
Monthly Inc	41.06	43.84†	..	8.72
International Funds				
American Gen	288.40	303.08†	- 0.50	..
American Smr	247.71	264.92	- 0.50	..
JG US Index	2289.50	2391.37		4.00
European Gen	317.48	335.80	+ 1.30	
European Smr	135.35	144.75	+ 0.20	...
Japan Gen	104.80	110.80†	+ 1.80	..
Asia Pacific	67.84	72.21†	+ 0.17	..
Pacific Smr	108.58	116.23	+ 1.80	.
Greater China	198.12	211.98	- 3.70	..
Latin America	103.29	110.46	+ 2.70	..
Intl Growth	162.33	173.80	+ 0.90	.
Balanced Exempt	145.80	151.09		
Global Strategy	47.39	50.58	- 0.14	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	808.50	860.10	+ 3.30	2.64
General Inc	659.00	701.00	+ 2.80	2.64
UK Growth Acc	569.20	585.80	+ 2.90	2.51
UK Growth Inc	354.10	376.70	+ 1.90	2.51
Higher Inc Acc #	1029.80	1094.00	+ 1.00	4.64
Higher Inc Inc #	520.20	551.90	+ 0.60	4.64
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	228.90	241.90	+ 0.10	5.70
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.34	100.70	..	5.70
Nth America	413.90	440.30	- 0.20	..
Europe	426.80	453.80	- 0.80	0.62
Brit Excell	111.80	118.90	+ 0.80	2.34
Brit Fedelis Acc	141.30	150.30	..	4.63
Brit Fedelis Inc	99.64	98.42	- 0.01	4.83
Global Opps	107.40	114.20	+ 0.70	0.31
Balanced Acc	70.82	75.33	+ 0.24	2.54
Balanced Inc	64.79	68.92	+ 0.23	2.54
Japan Acc	34.05	36.22	+ 0.83	...
Pac Basin Acc	278.50	296.20	+ 0.80	1.61
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	141.90	150.60	...	6.05
High Inc Equity	213.40	228.20†	+ 0.80	4.42
Worldwide Bond	267.40	283.60†	..	3.49
American Growth	507.80	541.90	+ 1.10	0.31
Asian Pacific	229.40	245.20	+ 1.80	0.58
Assets & Earnings	330.50	353.50†	+ 1.10	2.64
Euro Capital Acc	233.10	249.30	+ 0.40	0.90
Extra Inc	42.65	45.38†	..	9.17
General	306.30	325.80	+ 0.80	3.01
Global Opps	78.95	78.69	+ 8.40	0.41
Japan	74.96	80.17	+ 1.80	...
Managed Inc	50.88	54.23†	+ 0.10	4.15

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CCIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	871.86	865.04		3.93
Investment Acc	4309.94	4253.36		
Fixed Int Inc	132.53	133.07	..	8.72
Fixed Int Acc	263.29	264.34		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Buckmaster Intl	96.18	103.05†	...	6.12
Black Sto-Tech	39.19	42.37	- 0.17	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	212.05	222.87	..	0.41
City Fin Assets	65.01	69.27†	..	2.95
City Fin Intl	83.37	87.59†	.	0.06
Fours Hse Cap	355.57	378.27	..	1.65
Buckley Wrld Gth	137.45	145.70		
Stow Utilities	80.53	82.17†	+ 0.03	3.65
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	49.88	52.92	+ 0.47	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	96.92	103.11	+ 0.42	
Dragon Growth	46.78	50.83	+ 0.12	1.55
Equity High Inc	110.76	117.20	+ 0.13	3.19
-do- Accum	165.38	175.95	+ 0.19	3.19
Extra Income Inc	28.55	30.06	- 0.01	6.29
Extra Income Acc	33.19	34.94	- 0.01	6.29
European Gwth	77.50	82.52	+ 0.02	0.12
Evergreen	34.18	36.55	- 0.05	
General Equity	128.29	135.40	+ 0.31	2.32
Japan Growth	32.55	34.64	+ 0.58	..
Pedigree Gwth	77.16	81.85	+ 0.12	1.57
Pref Sm Cos Inc	40.87	43.85†	+ 0.09	1.43
-do- Accum	44.10	46.67	+ 0.09	1.43
Retirement Inc #	33.09	35.20	+ 0.03	5.07
Special Sits	53.33	57.34	+ 0.13	2.49
UK & Overseas	64.96	68.74	+ 0.39	0.52
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	79.42	82.72	+ 0.24	3.61
Capital	97.04	101.08	+ 0.26	1.97
High Income	55.68	58.00†	+ 0.02	6.50
Top 50	70.05	72.56	+ 0.27	2.00
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	216.52	225.47	+ 0.87	4.27
Long Gilt	49.88	51.92	+ 0.23	5.09
Monthly Inc Plus	57.71	60.12	+ 0.06	7.45
Preference Share	55.22	57.53	+ 0.14	6.78
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	160.90	167.62	+ 0.38	5.34
Managed Fund	82.29	85.73	+ 0.22	2.64
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.52	53.67	..	1.58
-do- Accum	61.61	64.18	..	1.58
UK & General	117.33	122.23	+ 0.37	2.30
-do- Accum	157.23	163.80	+ 0.50	2.30
UK Growth	234.40	234.19	+ 0.64	1.61
International Growth Funds				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inc Port Acc	84.08	88.92†	+ 0.10	3.41
Wwide Port	60.99	64.50	+ 0.39	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683512				
Equity Dist @	787.00	707.00	+ 2.50	2.07
-do- Accum @	1495.00	1495.00	+ 6.00	2.07
Equity Income #	121.60	121.60	- 0.10	4.49
UK Tactical Allocatn @	81.13	81.13	+ 0.08	5.30
European @	172.20	172.20	- 0.30	0.23
Far Eastern @	159.60	159.60	+ 1.30	
Fixed Interest @	58.62	58.62	...	7.34
Gilt @	97.83	97.83†	+ 0.11	6.05
Global Growth @	80.68	80.68	+ 0.25	0.19
Intl Bond @	48.36	48.36	- 0.13	5.05
Japanese @	52.83	52.83†	+ 0.78	
North American @	281.20	281.29	- 0.10	
Pacific Growth @	78.63	78.63	- 0.22	0.88
Pacific Index @	32.16	32.16†	+ 0.08	3.11
UK Index @	91.87	91.87†	+ 0.24	2.65
UK Recovery @	132.10	132.10†	+ 0.39	1.57
UK Smaller Cos @	177.90	177.90	+ 0.30	1.11
US Index @	109.90	109.90	+ 0.10	0.76
European Index @	109.50	109.50	- 0.20	1.15
Japan Index @	26.43	26.43	+ 0.67	
Worldindex @	107.70	107.70†	+ 0.29	1.07
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 823				
Growth	66.66	71.29†	+ 0.24	2.16
Income	79.61	85.14	- 0.23	3.54
Far East	31.95	34.17	+ 0.28	
North American	161.50	172.10	+ 0.30	
Global	89.55	95.77	+ 0.21	0.33
European	119.70	127.60	+ 0.40	0.63

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Opps	140.79	149.40†	+ 0.300	
-do- Accum	142.50	151.30†	+ 0.900	
British Blue Chip	117.00	124.10	+ 0.500	2.43
-do- Accum	155.20	164.60	+ 0.600	2.43
Cash	100.60	100.60		6.90
-do- Accum *	156.40	156.40		6.90
Emerging Mkts	126.70	136.30	+ 1.100	0.23
-do- Accum	128.50	138.20	+ 1.200	0.23
European Growth	392.30	415.40	+ 2.100	0.13
-do- Accum	428.20	453.40	+ 2.200	0.13
European Income	98.88	104.50	- 0.10	3.89
-do- Accum	148.90	157.50	- 0.20	3.88
General	685.30	726.80	+ 1.400	2.21
-do- Accum	1429.00	1520.00	+ 3.000	2.21
Global Bond	125.60	132.00	- 0.50	4.86
-do- Accum	174.80	183.60	- 0.60	4.86
Gold & General	108.30	116.30	- 2.10	0.62
-do- Accum	112.00	120.30	- 2.20	0.62
Govt Securities	101.00	104.10	- 0.10	5.34
-do- Accum	222.30	229.00	- 0.20	5.34
High Yield Bd	108.70	111.30		6.22
-do- Accum	121.50	124.90		6.22
Income	227.40	241.50†	+ 0.900	3.73
-do- Accum	392.90	417.20†	+ 1.450	3.73
Inc Portfolio #	125.50	132.90†	+ 0.330	4.91
-do- Accum #	142.90	151.40†	+ 0.400	4.91
Intl Opps	608.90	649.50	+ 3.200	0.76
-do- Accum	837.40	892.60	+ 4.500	0.76
Japan	136.50	145.60	+ 2.500	
-do- Accum	140.30	149.50	+ 2.600	
New Europe	279.10	297.70	+ 0.900	0.94
-do- Accum	292.90	312.40	+ 0.900	0.94
Pacific	72.28	77.05	+ 0.660	0.29
-do- Accum	77.97	83.12	+ 0.710	0.29
Recovery	536.20	571.90†	+ 2.500	1.59



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Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
565	407½	Allied Domecq	531	+ 4	4.6	13.6
626	385	Bulmer (HP)	417½		4.3	11.6
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	47	- ½	9.0	16.4
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	950		1.8	22.5
639	425½	Grand Met	548	- 9	3.4	17.6
633½	424	Guinness	549	- 7	3.5	15.1
380	280	Highland Distl	312½		3.6	14.1
336	213	Matthew Clark	234	- 2½	12.8	7.0
109½	49½	Merrydown	50		7.8	12.3
2009¼	1446½	SA Breweries	1471½	- 9½	2.5	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1159½		2.7	16.7
1050	710	Abbey Natl	941	+ 3	3.7	15.4
770	532½	Alliance & Leic	740	- 9½	2.8	17.3
563	388½	Allied Irish	519½	- 4½	3.4	14.7
516¼	363½	Aus New Z	405½	- ½	5.0	
4931¼	2875	Bank America	4357½	- 90½		
549	291½	Bank Scotland	500	+ 5	2.2	13.9
1800	978½	Barclays	1547	+ 6	2.9	13.8
814½	517½	Bk of Ireland	802½	- 1½	2.6	17.6
8959¼	6096½	Citicorp	7100	- 153½		
1759½	1267½	Commerzbk	1640½	- 9½	2.8	
667½	403½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	450	+ 37½	0.9	
4593¼	2706½	Deutsche Bk	3796½	- 3½	1.6	
1300	753½	Espirito Santo	1166½		3.1	
947½	249	Fuji Bank Y	306	+ 63½	1.5	58.9
2369½	1377½	HSBC	1506	- 12	3.8	12.2
2358½	1236	HSBC HK	1418	- 23	4.1	11.5
793	507	Halifax	676	- 6	2.7	22.8
645	435	Irish Perm	585		2.6	16.2
860½	424	Lloyds TSB	684	+ 13	2.6	19.9
1038	663½	Nat Aust Bk	782½	- 8½	5.0	
1012½	663	Nat West	907	+ 5	4.1	14.3
504½	443	Northern Rock	481	- 5½	2.4	19.0
727½	508	Ryl Bk Scot	685	+ 12	3.0	13.1
1093½	592½	Stand Chart	675	- 22	2.9	17.8
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
403½	315½	Westpac	373½	- 4	3.9	
373½	267½	Woolwich	291	- 5	3.4	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
900	695	Bass	856	- 7½	3.7	16.1
68½	43½	Brit for the Bar	52½	- ½	4.3	11.1
205	132½	Burtonwood Brew	152½		5.8	13.3
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	129		2.4	20.0
744½	575½	Compass Gp	699	- 11½	1.6	25.7
305	250	Eldridge P A	266½	- 6	2.6	14.7
266½	221	Enterprise Inns	245½	- 2½	3.9	
486	412	Fuller Sm A	427½		2.9	14.9
586	310	Greenalls Grp	380	+ 5	5.2	9.4
770	610	Greene King	652		3.7	14.0
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	137½	- 4½	4.0	20.6
293½	218½	Groupe Chez Gerr	281½		1.4	22.7
298½	212½	Hardy Hanson	215	- 1	6.4	9.6
2850	2175	Holt J	2175		3.4	12.2
78	58½	Inn Business	58½	- ½	3.5	9.3
357	293	Mansfield	297½		3.0	12.3
315½	252	Marston Thmp	271		3.7	9.4
615	487½	Morland	492½		3.5	12.7
266½	210	Old Eng Publ	241½		1.2	19.1
47½	18½	Paramount	21½			
863	527½	PizzaExpress	944	- 15	0.5	43.6
437½	310	Ramsdens (H)	327½	+ 5	1.9	29.0

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
225	162½	Car Group	184½		3.2	
172½	117½	Caverdale	170½	+ ½	3.5	7.8
100	61½	Charles Sidney	83½		4.7	11.9
59½	42	Cook (DC)	43	+ ½	7.0	5.8
121	90½	Dag Motors	97½	+ 1	10.3	8.3
134½	102½	Denmans El	102½		3.4	9.4
400	217	Diploma	227½	- 9	8.3	
502½	387½	Electrocompnts	417½	- 2½	2.4	22.5
235½	117½	Eurodis Elec	139	- 5	4.8	27.2
105	76½	European Mtr	94	- 1	8.1	7.1
300	213	Evans Halshaw	290	...	7.1	
55½	39½	Frie Indmar	47½		8.9	7.8
397½	275	Finelist Grp	331		2.9	14.7
34½	19½	Gardiner	20		5.9	7.4
79½	57½	Glencheston	66	..	3.0	10.7
110	82½	Gowrings	99½		3.9	16.5
15½	11	HR Owen	12½		7.1	8.6
103	30½	Hamlers	22½			2.1
374	284½	Headlam	325	+ 1½	2.3	19.7
172	145	Holders Tech	155		5.2	12.7
240½	85	ISA Intl	85½	- 2	4.4	6.7
308½	300	Inchcape	211½		6.8	13.9
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	56½	..	6.5	7.3
343½	214½	Kwik-Fit	325½	+ ½	2.2	17.8
460½	316½	Lex Service	431½	+ 1½	4.8	13.0
122	97	Lookers	109½		9.1	7.8
9	5½	Middlesex	5½		2.3	13.5
41½	10½	Midstatest	20½	+ ½	2.9	
472	180	Nortan	310		3.4	10.5
224½	114½	Northambert	224	+ 1½	1.4	15.6
352½	285½	Partcot	296½	+ ½	3.5	15.2
394½	254½	Pendragon	382½		4.5	12.4
223½	172½	Perry Gp	180½		6.4	8.0
751	406	Premier Farnell	406½	- 4	3.8	15.0
144½	116	Quicks Group	122½	+ 1	7.7	8.1
357	285	REA	290		1.7	64.1
2½	1½	Reece	1½			50.2
38	9½	Ronson	11½			
4	1½	Ross Gp	2½			
109½	78½	Ryland	101½	+ 1	5.0	9.6
38	24	SEP Ind	28	+ ½	6.9	12.9
97½	25	Saltire	31½	+ ½	4.8	
415½	317½	Time Products	313½	- 1	7.3	8.8
347	164½	Trust Motor Grp	166		8.6	7.2
408	328	UMECO	395		1.8	21.0
93½	59	United Ocean Gp	84		0.6	18.7
357½	267½	Vardy (Reg)	277½	- 1	3.4	13.2
685	493½	WF Elect	645		2.9	22.1
41	25½	Wilshawt	35½	+ ½	3.0	9.6
172½	111½	Wyko	148		2.5	16.4
159½	119½	Young (H)	148½		3.6	12.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	365		1.8	18.7
339	232	Ascot Hldgs	251½	- 7½	2.6	11.0
917	532½	Broken Hill	530	- ½	3.8	14.5
283	180½	BTR	206½	- 4½	5.3	7.2
624	462	BAT	538½	- 11½	6.1	13.1
60½	41	Brierley Inv	42½	- ½	11.3	6.9
266	182	Cookson	197½	+ 4	5.1	12.4
232½	197½	Cosalt	231½		6.3	
415	255½	DCC	392		2.6	14.6
330	243½	Galliford	321	+ ½	7.5	10.0
140½	101½	Hanson Orsld	118	- ½	9.3	13.2
667½	338½	Hutch Whamp	391	- 12½	3.0	24.1
438½	361	Imperial Tob	394	- ½	6.3	7.9
522½	306½	Jardine Math	321	- 6½	4.7	12.6
158½	85½	Lonrho	87½	- 4	6.8	9.1
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	167		5.4	
458½	388½	Powell Duffryn	456½	+ 1	7.0	11.7
197½	141½	Staveley	145		7.9	18.7

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1333½	887	Siebe	1065	- 3	1.5	30.4
227½	105½	Six Hundred	122½		5.2	8.6
993½	708½	Smiths Indt	798	- 7	2.8	18.8
767	550	Spirax-Sarco	550		3.2	14.2
303½	236½	Sterling Ind	241	- ½	5.3	8.7
698½	450	TI	477	- 5	3.6	15.2
130½	88½	Tinsley (E)	113½	+ 1	6.7	10.7
120½	92½	TransTec	98½		3.1	13.3
225½	144½	Triplex Lloyd	208	+ ½	4.2	14.1
378	251½	Ultra Elect	352½		2.3	20.8
77½	48½	Utd Inds	53½		5.8	13.7
273½	168½	Vickers	231	- ½	3.8	14.4
10½	7½	Villiers Gp	7½			
712½	505	Vitec	628½		2.5	11.9
952	742	Vosper Thorny	852	- ½	4.0	13.0
350	213½	Wagon Ind	257½		6.0	11.1
304½	203½	Weir	257½	+ 4	4.0	12.5
259½	186½	Wellington Hdg	168½		6.0	9.8
38½	23	Wellman	36½	+ ½	6.3	11.5
71½	45½	Wescott	65½	- 1	2.3	18.8
825	525	Whatman	792½		2.2	23.2
65½	30½	Widney	43½		10.1	..

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

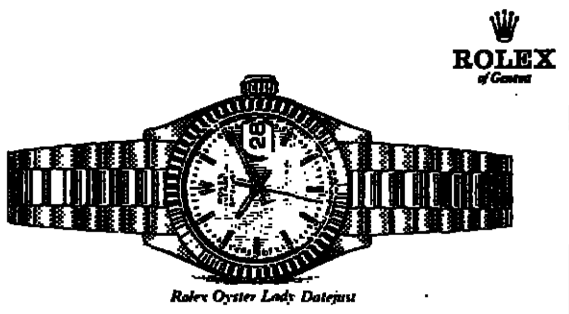
1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
154	97	Adwest	150½		5.6	12.2
197	156	Airflow Streaml	160	+ 1½	6.2	11.5
757	565	Avon Rubber	635		4.0	13.0
344	227½	Bostrom	340		2.6	17.0
140	96	Britax	123½	+ ½	3.6	16.1
339½	238½	Dennis	315	+ ½	3.7	14.4
930	657½	First Tech	926½		1.5	24.3
1480	907	GKN	1301	- 4	2.4	
4396½	3237½	General Mtr	3590½	- 37½	3.3	
583½	367	Hertys	405½		4.8	9.7
2323½	1540½	Honda Motor	2162½	+ 128	0.4	
502	312½	Laird	427½		3.4	
245	180	LucasVarity	191	+ 1	2.6	14.8
206	131	Mayflower	171	- 1	1.8	34.2
172½	107½	Syltone	109	- 9½	7.6	8.8
257½	123	T & N	250		4.7	
85½	18	Toad	20½			

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
580	418	AB Food	546	- 1	2.3	17.3
311½	250	Acatos & Hutch	286		4.6	24.0
48½	34	Albert Fisher	37	+ ½	11.4	9.7
330	275	Banks (S C)	291½	- 5	4.9	10.4
450	322	Barr (AG)	389	- 1	3.3	14.3
43	30	Bensons Crisp	33½	+ ½	4.2	8.3
402	244	Booker	312	- ½	9.6	

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91½	30	ABI Leis	31½	- ½	20.2	3.1
1243½	797	Airtours	1174	+ 11½	1.8	21.2
59½	30	Aid Leist	33	..	3.8	10.7
67½	37½	Arcadian	60		2.5	25.0
22½	9½	Arena Leis	20½			
167½	122½	BS Group	147½	...	5.5	...
132½	95	Baldwin	115		4.3	16.1



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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Ramsdens (H)	Breweries	
2	Dorling Kind	Media	
3	Next	Ret Gen	
4	Bluebird Toys	Leisure	
5	UNO	Ret Gen	
6	Mrks Spencer	Ret Gen	
7	Ashtead	Bld & Cons	
8	App Holo	Print Pap	
9	Greenalls Grp	Breweries	
10	FS Dev	Mining	
11	Sleepy Kids	Media	
12	Hays	Sup Serv	
13	Allied Domecq	Alc Bev	
14	Rugby Group	Bld Mats	
15	Weir	Engin'ing	
16	Concentric	Engin'ing	
17	Dart	Transport	
18	Berisfrd Loan	Engin'ing	
19	Centrl Pacific	Mining	
20	Abbey Ntl	Banks	
21	Euro Colour	Chemicals	
22	Canning (W)	Chemicals	
23	Vaux Group	Breweries	
24	*Britannic*	*Insurance*	
25	Southern Elec	Elect'y	
26	Dragon Oil	Oil & Gas	
27	Sage Gp	Sup Serv	
28	Greycoat	Property	
29	Tesco	Ret Food	
30	Inspec	Chemicals	
31	High-Point	Property	
32	Berkeley Gp	Bld & Cons	
33	Br Petroleum	Oil & Gas	
34	Rathbne Brs	Oth Fin	
35	Radius	Sup Serv	
36	Beauford	Engin'ing	
37	Nat West	Banks	
38	BG	Oil & Gas	
39	Nestor Hlth	Healthcare	
40	EW Fact	Sup Serv	
41	Natinal Grid	Elecy	
42	Cookson	Div Inds	
43	Wolvrhmptl D	Breweries	
44	Christies Int	Ret Gen	

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

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1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	48	Jerome (S)	48½		6.1	11.8
380	293	Jones Stroud	349	- 1	3.9	16.6
205	110	Lambert	205		4.8	13.7
195	116	Lamont	136		11.8	11.3
173	105	Leeds	111½		7.6	8.3
38½	21½	Leslie Wise Gp	24		11.7	18.4
77	47	Lyles (S)	72½	- ½	3.9	12.0
16½	7½	Marling	16½		1.5	62.9
8½	3½	PEX	3½			6.9
207½	164	Parkland	164		5.0	7.1
118	88	Pentland	102		4.4	15.3
103	69½	Pittards	69½		6.3	4.7
46½	25	Readicut	42½	- ½	7.6	13.8
45½	19½	Richards	35		7.1	
40½	20½	SEET	22½	+ 1		

1998 SIXTH FORM ENTRY

هكذا من الأصل

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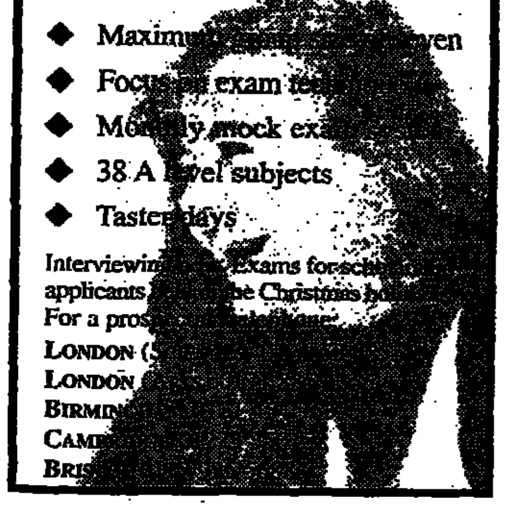

- Maximu[illegible]ven
- Focus [illegible] exam te[illegible]
- Mo[illegible]ly mock ex[illegible]
- 38 A [illegible]vel subjects
- Taster days

Interviewin[illegible] Exams for[illegible] applicants [illegible]e Christmas [illegible] For a pros[illegible]
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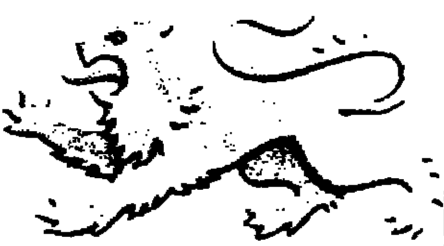

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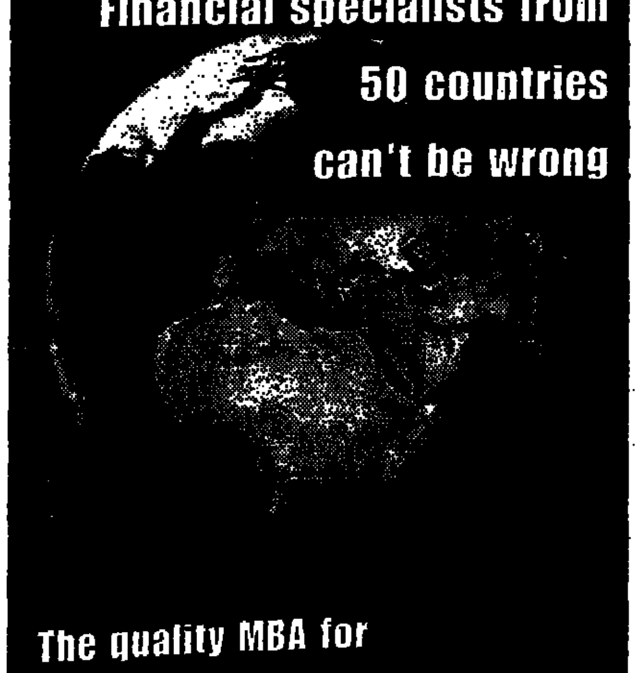

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The Teacher Training Agency has high expectations of all its officers. In addition to professionalism, we look for energy, enthusiasm and a determination to succeed. In return, you will get the chance to make a real difference to the quality of education for our pupils. If your personal and professional skills can match the innovation and vision of this new development in school leadership, we'd like to hear from you.

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The Teacher Training Agency is a national body responsible for raising the standards of pupils' achievements through improving teaching and teacher training. It is committed to promoting the professionalism of teaching and has a wide remit covering recruitment, initial teacher training and induction, quality assessment and continuing professional development.

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The closing date for applications is January 23 1998

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Full Curriculum Vitae with names and addresses of three referees to be sent to The Headmaster, St John's-on-the-Hill, Chepstow, Mon. NP6 7LE

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Full details of the school may be found on page 954 of the Independent Schools Yearbook. Full details will only be sent to short-listed candidates.

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Please call 0171 925 3770 for a candidate pack (quoting the relevant reference number: QA/11/97). **The closing date for applications is 12.30pm on 5 January, 1998.**

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

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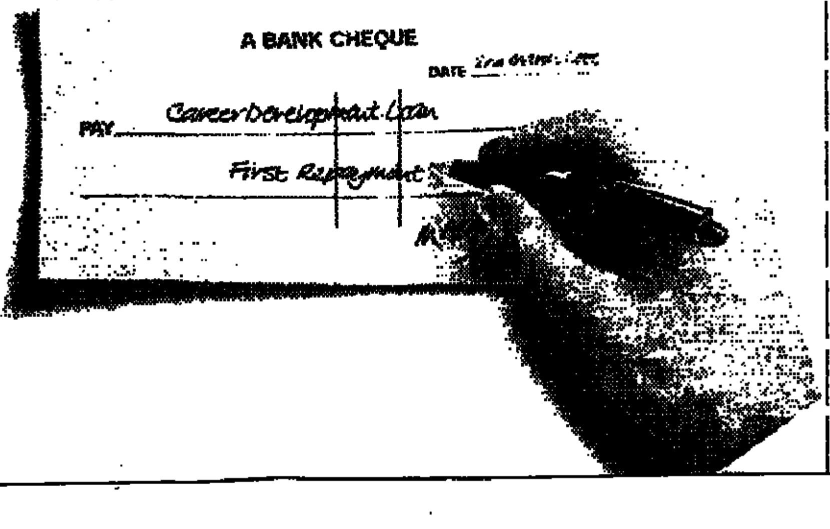

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EDUCATION

Are there too many appeals?

John O'Leary on girls' schools' worries about A-level reviews

Parents could have been forgiven for feeling themselves the villains of the piece at this week's Girls' Schools Association (GSA) conference, which ends in Bristol today.

The headlines have been captured by their supposed mollycoddling of children and their role in encouraging eating disorders because of alleged susceptibility to the arguments of food fetishists. The predicted apprehension of parents about the impact of partnerships with state schools was also among the chief concerns of Stephen Byers, the Schools Minister.

Away from the conference platform, however, headmistresses were worrying about another trait of the assertive customer, which some think could distort the educational process. Parents have noted the publicity over the success of challenges to A-level grading, and are demanding a second opinion when results fall short of expectations.

Leading girls' schools are also calling for a review of A-level procedures because they fear that pressure from parents to challenge grades is creating an appeals culture that threatens the credibility of the examination.

The number of appeals has risen sharply: the Associated Examining Board (AEB) reports a 32 per cent increase this year alone. Although only schools can challenge a result, the high success rate has encouraged parents to demand appeals when university places are at stake.

GSA research found that its members had each challenged about 11 results last year. More than 350 of the 900 appeals covered by the survey were successful and only two led to grades being reduced.

London-based members of the GSA, which include several of the schools at the top of last week's league tables, have demanded action to reduce the number of appeals and to tighten up marking enough to cut the proportion of candidates being upgraded.

On your marks: more and more parents are challenging A-level results when university places are at stake

Clarissa Farr, Headmistress of Queenswood School, in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, said: "The volume of appeals is absolutely ridiculous and it is putting schools that cannot afford to appeal at an unfair disadvantage. If something is ~~not done, the whole credibility of the examining system will~~ be in question."

Rosanne Randle, Headmistress of Dame Alice Harpur School, Bedford, who chairs the GSA's education committee, said: "Five years ago head teachers would have resisted a parent's request to appeal unless they were absolutely certain that an injustice had been done, but they cannot be confident that grades will be confirmed. The uncertainty puts us in an invidious position, which needs to be addressed by the new qualifications authority."

Jacqueline Lang, the GSA's president and Headmistress of Walthamstow Hall, in Sevenoaks, Kent, said: "The problem is most serious in English, but it is evident in all the subjects which involve essay-writing and opinions. It has got to the point where some schools feel they might as well appeal about everything. You cannot have a situation where you assume that the results are wrong until proved otherwise."

As well as costing some students a place at their chosen university, schools' results are underestimated in the league tables. Mrs Lang said: "A couple of extra grades can make all the difference to a school's score."

George Turnbull, a spokesman for the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance, which includes the AEB, said: "We are as concerned as the schools about the development of a culture in which appealing becomes the first port of call. The system was not designed to accommodate this sort of volume of inquiries. It was meant to be a safety net for people who had been expected to do very much better than their results suggested."

Mr Turnbull said that most appeals could not result in grades being lowered, so schools felt they had nothing to lose. A levels were closely moderated, but some regrading was inevitable if papers were re-marked, especially in arts subjects.

CASE STUDY

LOUISE NICHOL had set her heart on a place at Cambridge after surviving two days of tests and interviews at Girton College. All she needed were three top-grade A levels, *John O'Leary writes.*

Havant College, in Hampshire, was confident that she would get them, and the exams in English, French and Spanish went well. But her plans fell apart when the results arrived. She had dropped to a B in English, and Girton was oversubscribed with those who had met their targets.

"It seemed grossly unfair," Louise said. "I had worked so hard to get the grades I thought I deserved. I was distraught when I got that B."

Both the college and Louise's mother Sue, a teacher at St Paul's School, London, were so convinced that the grade was wrong that they launched an immediate appeal. The Associated Examining Board agreed, but the amended result took eight weeks to come through, by which time Louise had started a languages degree at University College London.

Girton offered a place in 1998, but said Louise had missed too much of the course to be admitted this term. "Having a year off now would be such an upheaval," Louise said. "I'm not sure I could face another change, especially when I'm settled and enjoying the course."

Both Louise and her mother are angry that the process has cost her the chance of a Cambridge degree. "After two days of interviews and tests, I think the college had a far better picture of me than they could ever have got through A levels," Louise said. "Yet they were all that counted."

Sue Nichol said: "As a teacher, I see all the time how unpredictable A levels are in subjects like English, history and art. This is a typical example of the student suffering when she has done everything right."

Scene set for pay battle

Members of the teachers' pay review body reportedly looked "horrified" earlier this month when local authority employers demanded a below inflation rise for next year.

The employers' call for a 2.5 per cent settlement was followed this week by an unprecedented "reminder" to public sector pay bodies from Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for pay restraint.

Just weeks after the Government launched a £10 million drive to promote the profession, teachers look like receiving their lowest pay rise for a decade. Classroom unions, which submitted a 10 per cent claim, predictably have accused ministers and employers of a topsy-turvy approach to raising morale and improving the image of teaching.

But employers argue that the Government will fail to meet its pledge to reduce class sizes unless it awards a below-inflation rise. Moreover, they say there is no recruitment crisis.

Graham Lane, chairman of the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers, says: "Teacher recruitment is not a problem — there are 15 teachers chasing every job in Sheffield. There are no vacancies for head teachers in England. There have always been a few problem subject areas but you don't find more maths or modern language teachers by giving an above-inflation pay rise to all teachers."

The employers are known to be lobbying hard to have the pay review body itself scrapped. Mr Lane adds: "Teachers' pay has gone up by 100 per cent in ten years while inflation stands at 68 per cent. They have done better than anyone else in local government, including the police." He argues that more people would become trainee teachers if classes were smaller and working conditions better.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, says the review body should treat the Government's target for class limits of 30 for five, six and seven-year-olds separately from salary.

"If the Government does not get enough money from phasing out the Assisted Places Scheme to meet its class size targets, it has to find more money from somewhere else, not from teachers' pay," he says.

"Teachers will be angry if they have to pay for smaller classes. Mr Lane should be arguing for higher pay as well as smaller classes and telling the Government to find the money."

Brown: pay restraint

Mr Brown called the public sector pay review chairmen together on Tuesday to drive home his pay policy message. Head teachers sense that the intervention means the writing is on the wall for next year's pay round — and perhaps even for the future of the review body, which makes its recommendations in January.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, says: "This was an outrageous interference with the independence of the pay review body. I hope it will resist this pressure and make recommendations that are in the interests of the education service, even if they are not to the liking of the Government."

DAVID CHARTER

John Rae on a scheme to persuade parents of the benefits of boarding

When boarding is best

The police investigation into child pornography which included raids on two boarding schools could not have been more badly timed for the Boarding Education Alliance (BEA).

Its birth this week passed almost unnoticed after it sensibly decided, in consultation with its public relations advisers, on a low-key launch.

The aim of the BEA, which represents 180 schools, is to sell boarding education in an increasingly sceptical and shrinking market. The number of boarders in independent schools has fallen by 28 per cent in the past ten years. Boarding education may not be in terminal decline but it is no longer the preferred option for middle-class parents. High fees, the overriding importance of academic qualifications and the stubborn image of dormitories where bullying goes unchecked, all help to convince parents that a good independent or maintained day school is the answer. Why spend £12,000 a year when you can have at least as good an education for half the price or for nothing?

If the BEA is to be successful, it will have to persuade parents not only that the stubborn images are outdated but that the boarding experience has something distinctive to offer.

The former should not be too difficult. There are boarding schools where change has been superficial — colour-coordinated curtains and bedspreads — but most have undergone profound changes. It is no longer true, for example, that bullying is more likely to flourish in a boarding than day school: on the contrary, the tighter pastoral structure of a good boarding school, including access to a counsellor, probably means that bullying is picked up and dealt with more quickly.

The film *Another Country* questioned the boarding idea

Persuading parents of the special quality of boarding should not be difficult, either. What is distinctive about boarding schools is not that they develop character and leadership but that they offer a fuller, more rounded education. In this they have three advantages over day schools: time, the availability of staff and the excellence of facilities. If an important part of education is to discover what you have an aptitude for and to be encouraged in that aptitude, a good boarding school provides opportunities that few day schools can match. As one parent said: "Boarding maximises the children's potential."

Boarding schools also offer parents a wider choice. Small day schools are rare. Small boarding schools, such as St Anne's in Windermere or the even smaller New School in Dunkeld, that excel in helping the slower or "more fragile" child, are one of the strengths of the boarding sector. There are day schools, such as George Watson's in Edinburgh, that successfully integrate pupils who need learning support, but most of the good learning support units are in boarding schools.

Nor is it true that for academic excellence parents should look to the great urban day schools. The most successful school since A-level league tables were introduced is Winchester, a boarding school. Other boarding schools figure prominently in the upper reaches of these tables, despite having to fill beds as best they can.

Manchester Grammar School may have five candidates of equal ability for each place, but it is hard-pushed to compete academically with some of the girls' boarding schools that do not have that luxury. The less hectic academic atmosphere of these boarding schools can deliver A-level results that are arguably more impressive than those of the day schools.

I am not suggesting that boarding schools are better than day schools or vice versa, just that boarding may suit some children better. The case for boarding is often expressed in terms of what suits different categories of parents — lone parents, both parents working, parents who live overseas. But boarding may also suit the child from a traditional family living two miles from the school, particularly over the period of adolescence.

The family is the theatre in which most young people act out the rites of passage, but boarding schools offer a legitimate alternative. The rebellious adolescent takes on the school rather than his or her parents. For two thirds of the year, the school absorbs the strain. That may suit some adolescents as much as it suits their parents.

In fact, it is the contemporary adolescent lifestyle that presents the boarding schools with their most difficult problem. By being more open to parents and allowing their pupils to have regular contact with home, boarding schools have encouraged the view that there should not be such a contrast between the lifestyle at home and the lifestyle at school. The BEA emphasises that boarding schools now try to "reproduce the lifestyle of home".

The more boarding schools try to reproduce the lifestyle of home, the more difficulties they may make for themselves. It would be a pity if just when boarding schools are dispelling outdated images and modernising so many aspects of their operation, they forget that one of the attractions of boarding school, for both parents and pupils, is that it is not like home.

● *The BEA National Information Line is 0171-388 8866. Dr Rae's book* Letters to Parents *will be published in January.*

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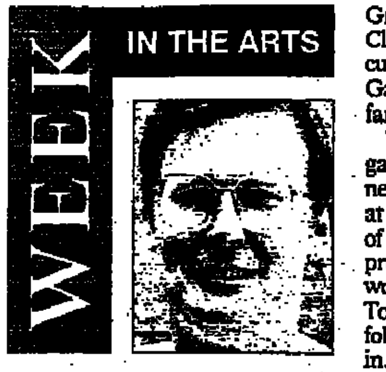
THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

The charge of the cobwebbed brigade



RICHARD MORRISON

If your heart tugs you in one direction and your head in another, do you try to stand still? Clearly that would be biologically unwise. Your body would snap. But that is more or less the attitude of our museums and galleries to the vexed matter of admission charges.

Few people would raise a rousing cheer if charges were imposed by the institutions that still maintain free public entry. The heart says no. The evidence also says no. in the sense that most of it (though not all) suggests that attendances would decline.

Yet nobody would be chuffed if a national glory like the British Museum went bust. True, the BM's financial methods were, until recently, skimpy to the point of invisibility. The mummified Egyptians who line the BM's halls were certainly accustomed to less primitive accountancy procedures in their former lives.

Even so, the fact is that, even if it were better managed, the BM would probably still need to increase its income. Since that increase won't come from politicians, it must come from punters. Therefore the head reluctantly says yes to charges. And not only at the BM, but at all institutions that have clung to free entry.

The question now is, does head or heart win? This week the "heart" brigade has been in full, hysterical cry. They suspect that a Labour Party which piously abhorred museum charges while in Opposition has now executed a U-turn. They are right to suspect. Labour will find not a penny more for culture. So, short of robbing the Peters of the performing arts to pay the Pauls of the museums, the Culture Secretary has no option but to be pragmatic. Next week he is likely to tell the museums to charge away, if that is what it takes to keep them in business.

Will that be sad? Again, the heart says yes. A few Saturdays ago I had an hour to kill in London with my three children. We went to the National Gallery. The atmosphere was chaotic but exhilarating. Tots thronged round Turners, adolescent eyes grew saucer-wide at the fleshly exuberance of the randier Old Masters. No space for peaceful contemplation here — but my goodness, the place was alive.

You will guess my next sentence. We might not have dropped into the National Gallery on impulse if entry had involved the swift removal of £25. Nor would scores of other familes that day. Parting with serious money would have turned the whole thing into a big-deal cultural expedition. I would have forced the kids to trudge round every damn canvas to get our tickets' worth. They would have made an Oedipal mental note to avoid Daddy's favourite art gallery for the rest of their lives.

So I have some sympathy with those who argue that free museums foster cultural appreciation in ways that are unquantifiable and subliminal. But isn't there a sleight-of-hand illogicality here? After all, it is just as important that I induct my children into the pleasures of the National Theatre, the Albert Hall, Lord's Cricket Ground and Arsenal Football Club. Each is as much part of our cultural heritage as the National Gallery. Yet I don't expect the family to get in free.

That is why I object to the gallons of sentimental tosh in the newspapers this week. A turnstile at the BM does not signal the end of civilisation. It might just help to preserve it. Nor will it "discourage working-class people". Alton Towers is packed with ordinary folk who pay a hefty wedge to get in. The fact is that the public is attracted by atmosphere, imagination, excitement, friendliness and good marketing, not by free entry. Some of the world's greatest museums charge for entry and are packed. Other are free but as lively as morgues at midnight. Indeed, without any financial pressure to pull in punters, curators easily settle into cobwebbed old ways.

Which raises another point. At the last count, Britain had 2,500 museums, some of them staffed with hundreds of curators, guards and administrators. Is the huge expansion of the past 20 years (now intensified by lottery handouts) satisfying a genuine demand, or the empire-building lusts of curators? Is the public being taken for a genteel ride? If so, the case for free admission becomes even weaker. Let the bracing gale of market forces blow away the duds.

The trouble is that museum directors are too busy manning the barricades to think positively about the *advantages* of admission charges. Yes, chaps, advantages. For instance, the museums should study the tactics of English Heritage. After you have visited one of their castles, you are offered a membership deal that gets you into all the others. What's more, your admission charge for that day is refunded.

It's clever marketing. Britain's museums should be uniting to devise something similar. The Dutch already have. And they should be concocting deals with the tourist trade, so that foreign visitors are sold comprehensive museum passes as part of their travel packages.

In short, instead of clinging to paternalistic Victorian ideals, museums should be planning how to compete with the myriad leisure attractions of the 21st century. They urgently need to revolutionise their marketing, inject some thrills into their displays, invest in kiddie-gripping interactive technology, exploit their collections on the Internet. To do that they need money. Admission charges will supply it. Nothing else will.

But in their present siege mentality, museum bosses won't admit this. What a pity. We will waste years in argument and financial turmoil, and then end up with admission charges anyway. But that's British cultural life for you.

THEATRE: One of the National's most successful plays has upset disabled people, **Sue Corbett** reports. Plus reviews

DONALD COOPER

Owen Sharpe, Ruaidhri Conroy and Aisling O'Sullivan in the National's production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan*: disabled people say they were upset that the central figure was the butt of so many jokes

A ripple of disapproval

A spot of embarrassment is heading the National Theatre's way next Tuesday. Its 1996-97 staging of Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple Of Inishmaan* is expected to receive a Raspberry Ripple Award for the year's worst theatre portrayal of a disabled person. This, and other awards for best and worst portrayals of disabled people in the arts and media, will be made by the 1 in 8 Group, which lobbies against disabled people (one in eight of the population) being seen as tragic, evil, heroic or comic, rather than as part of ordinary life.

The embarrassment to the National is double-edged, since 1 in 8 and the theatre have generally been on friendly terms. The National's former artistic director, Sir Richard Eyre, had even offered the group free use of one of his foyers for next Tuesday's ceremony, an offer it turned down when it decided to televise the awards. "But the Raspberry Ripple Awards are not meant to be heavy," says Susie Burrows, the 1 in 8 spokeswoman. "We are not intending to castigate the National. We are just giving people a chance to think about the issues."

Nevertheless the group, which sent out 5,500 ballot papers to its 1,000 members and other interested parties, found there was a "spontaneous eruption" of feeling against *The Cripple Of Inishmaan*. Some voters were so shocked that they left the theatre at the interval, and one disabled man, who had begun to think the audience would laugh at him if he went to the bar, felt compelled to stay in his seat at half-time.

"People were upset by the play because the disabled character was the butt of so many jokes," says Richard Reiser, the Raspberry Ripple (rhymes with cripple) co-ordinator. "The play was supposedly educative, but when I saw it the audience was joining in laughing at the disabled person's expense. If you'd put a black man in such a role, with racist jokes, there would have been uproar."

A snatch of the McDonagh's dialogue illustrates what Reiser means: "What would I want to go out walking with a cripple-boy for?" one character asks. "It isn't out walking you'd be anyways, it would be out shuffling, because you can't walk."

"Eyre had told me they had a play coming up that I wouldn't like because of the title," Reiser says. "He was right. The word cripple is gratuitously offensive. The assumption presumably was that the audience was sophisticated enough to say: 'Oh, we don't use that word.' But that's not true. We're not at that stage.

"In fact, the title was the least of our worries. The play did not in any way enhance people's perceptions of the issues, and what is the theatre if it does not change and inform attitudes? These are some of the ideas we'd like to take forward now with Richard Eyre's successor."

The able-bodied teenage actor Ruaidhri Conroy received glowing reviews for his acting in the title role. But disabled actors complain that this robbed them of their best stage opportunity for years. "I can't believe the National couldn't find a disabled actor," says Jamie Beddard, who has cerebral palsy and performs with the Tottering Bipeds Company. "If able-bodied actors get to play disabled roles, why doesn't the reverse happen?"

The National's casting director, Serena Hill, explains her difficulty: "It wasn't clear until we got to rehearsals exactly what the character's disability would be. But the age (17 to 18), the soul of this man, and the fact that he should be authentically Irish — were clear. Those were the priorities. Disabled or otherwise, it was going to be hard to find an actor that young with the right experience.

"There wasn't any contest once we'd seen Ruaidhri. There was a disabled actor on my initial list: he was too old really for the part, but he had many of the qualities we wanted. We would have seen him except that he turned out no longer to be available."

For Reiser, that is unacceptable. "Until theatres like the National start casting disabled people in more minor roles, people are not going to have the experience to come through and do major parts. We need cross-casting, as applies now with black actors. Disabled actors shouldn't have to play stereotypes."

Meanwhile, smaller companies seem to be taking the lead. It is good news that Tottering Bipeds is on the 1 in 8 shortlist for best theatre production of 1997, "for casting Jamie Beddard in a leading role in *Waiting for Godot*, and making his impairment an integral part of the production".

- *If you want to help 1 in 8 to monitor portrayals of disabled people for next year's awards, write to them at 78 Mildmay Grove, London N1 4PJ, enclosing SAE. The Raspberry Ripple Awards ceremony will be shown by Channel 4 on Wednesday at 11.50pm*

Breaks into laughter

Bazaar
Ambassadors

IT'S showtime in the stockroom of Hassan's bazaar in a suburb of Madrid. His video clip has been tipped for a top five slot on the Spanish television equivalent of *You've Been Framed*. There's serious money at stake and some vindication for the hapless star, a sleazy opportunist called Anton who broke his wrist and flattened a gypsy when he crashed his bike while watching a blonde wiggle down the street.

There's only one problem. The accident looks too good to be true and, in the two-faced way in which everyone in Madrid seems to interact in David Planell's new play, Hassan has been asked to re-shoot it or lose out. Problem: can they reassemble the original cast? Can Anton do it with his broken wrist?

The appeal of Planell's three-hander is almost entirely in the relish with which he draws his characters. Nicholas Woodeson needs little more than a suit to turn himself into the tight-fisted 55-year-old Arab businessman, Hassan, who scorns his Moroccan roots and systematically humiliates his disgruntled young nephew, Rashid (dutifully played by Nitzan Sharron) for hanging out with "Moors" after his epic 16-hour shifts. "Work is for fish fingers," muses Adrian Edmondson's Anton cheerfully.

This is the second of three staged pieces in the Royal Court's New European Writers' Season and what is already becoming apparent is how fiendishly difficult it is to appropriate the work of these young writers without erasing the context. But John Clifford's translation makes a difficult script sound easy.

Cultural differences between characters swell like varicose veins as the 20-second video clip takes 12 hours to reconstruct. Potentially interesting flashpoints are set up, but they give way to crude comedy when the video veers farcically out of control. It's probably a saving grace. Planell tries to put an undue amount of moral weight into the bottom end of his script by getting Rashid to lecture Hassan on the danger of being estranged from his past. It's a pretty hopeless piece of ballast.

When it is discovered that Hassan is prepared to get on TV at all costs, *Bazaar* suddenly becomes bizarre. Roxana Silbert's production tilts alarmingly one way then the other, before lurching to an unexpectedly wholesome stop.

The most successful moments are the delicious, incidental off-stage details. Anton, we hear, fails to hit any of his mattresses. Sounding eerily like Alison Steadman in *Abigail's Party*, Edmondson's newly smashed-up stuntman emerges triumphant for a final round of tactless observations. Something far darker and more desperate is demanded of Edmondson at this point, but it escapes him completely. Woodeson has little more success as a reborn Moor, and Sharron's Rashid has the unenviable task of playing the conscience of the piece. But it is not the ending that will be remembered, it is the endearing way Planell's play got there without crutches.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

A very modern monster

Roberto Zucco
Stratford

A PRISON warder calls Roberto Zucco, who has just killed his father, an example of "sheer evil" and "a wild, violent, animal bastard". But the speaker belongs to the same law-and-order system that proceeds to threaten a harmless young woman with violence in a "torture chamber". Later the same girl's brother, enraged that Zucco has raped her, also calls the criminal "evil". Yet his own next move is to sell his sister to a local pimp. What is going on in the unnamed but recognisably French city where Bernard-Marie Koltes set the play he finished just before he died of an Aids-related disease in 1989?

If a radical British dramatist of that era had penned *Roberto Zucco*, the answer would have been pretty clear. A corrupt, hypocritical capitalist society created a killer who, as it turns out, manages also to knock off his mother, a policeman and a child. But Koltes's ideology is not so glib, nor his diagnosis so neat. Roberto Zucco — a real-life murderer and suicide — emerges as an end-of-millennium version of Büchner's Woyzeck: a zonked boy who blunders about wreaking havoc without wanting to or knowing why.

That's what makes the character and the play interesting and disturbing. You believe his mother when, just before he strangles her, she says that Roberto has been "good for 24 years". You believe those who call him gentle and sweet, because, as Zubin Varla plays the role, there is always something vulnerable, earnest and baffled about him. He seems to be without motive, at times without identity. When people ask him his name, he has genuine trouble remembering. He is uncategorisable, modern and terrifying.

I don't think Koltes comes anywhere near proving Zucco's contention that, if the right switch were pressed, we would "all start murdering each other". But, helped by Martin Crimp's deft translation and James Macdonald's stark, sinister production at Stratford's Other Place, he certainly creates an unsettling atmosphere. The world has shrunk to a corridor of grey light peopled by the frustrated and the bewildered, the angry and the despairing. Little wonder that Zucco babbles into a phone about wanting to be reincarnated as a stray dog; little wonder there is nobody at the other end.

With a drunken father reeling across the stage threatening to beat up whoever has hidden his booze and violent policemen, tarts and bouncers also making their weight felt, Koltes's metropolis has the random, chaotic feel of Howard Korder's New York or the London of our own young chroniclers of urban ennui.

But there are one or two scenes that few late-20th-century pessimists have bettered, prime among them one where an armed Roberto holds hostage Diana Kent's socialite and her son. It is not just that she clearly finds the experience an exhilarating release from boredom. It is that the violence occurs to the accompaniment of a chorus of onlookers, voyeurs interested only in bickering about their own roles in the crisis. It's awful, funny and true. So is the play.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

هكذا من الأهل

Rejoice! Rejoice! Britpop is dead

The jig is up, the hype exposed, and now Oasis, Pulp and the rest will have to do a proper job

CAITLIN MORAN

The whole thing about euphoria is that you are only supposed to sample it in tiny nips and delicious sips. It is finger food, not something you could live off, lest your stomach turn to acid. It needs to be augmented with progress, achievement, reflection, knowledge and something stodgy and carbohydratey, like work. Britpop, which was played entirely on one emotional note — cocaine-induced euphoria — was always destined to have a short life.

It has dated horribly. Anything promoted on Britpop iconography seems almost sepia-tinted and lame in the dying moments of 1997. The Spice Girls — Union Jack dresses, Great British crisps, the tabloid version of Britpop — come across as exhausted kitsch dinosaurs. The big Pulp comeback single, *Help the Aged*, went in at only No 9. Echobelly and Sleeper — always the limping, lion-fodder antelopes in the Britpop herd — have both released catastrophically unsuccessful albums. Supergrass, despite making one of the best albums of the year, have seen it sell dismally in the backlash. Black Grape are no longer something you'd get excited about. Blur have distanced themselves entirely from Britpop.

And Oasis? Well, they are hardly dead in the water, having sold three million copies of *Be Here Now*, but the thrill has gone. When Chris Evans — not the most intellectually gifted of men, but one able to sniff out a cultural trend the way rats can scent a dropped Big Mac from 800 yards — tried, and failed, to resuscitate a copy of *Be Here Now* with defibrillators on *TFI Friday*, he got it bang on. Britpop is dead.

The real story behind Britpop explains why it could never have lasted that long. Back in 1993, the British music industry was in serious trouble. Although it was, as it has always been, Britain's third biggest grosser, the trend was definitely downward. Grunge had made British bands seem hopelessly out of date and provincial to the international market, and the only British acts that were selling were the old warhorses — Phil Collins, Pink Floyd — and one-hit or two-hit wonder dance artists. The industry hated and still hates dance artists — impossible to promote, short shelf-life, no personalities to hang merchandise off, and completely alienating for anyone over the age of 30.

So when Suede came along, corduroy trousers full of credibility, frontman voluble and photogenic, and musical reference points (Bowie, Smiths, Kate Bush) that got the over-thirties buying, a lightbulb appeared over the heads of the industry. Suede came from the "indie" world, so maybe there was more of this lovely marketable stuff in the alternative ghetto.

Bingo! The indie world finally got a big promotional push. But not the weirder stuff, not sonic experimentalists Spiritualized, or the Krautrock balladeering of Julian Cope, or the crimplene futurism of Stereolab; just the retro, comfortingly familiar guitar bands.

And so Britpop was spawned, a movement not born of any musician-led collectivism, or a groundswell of new noise, but conceived in the sterile petri dish of press and marketing, and weaned on cocaine.

The coke euphoria lasted two years, and spawned ridiculous claims on behalf of Britpop — that London was the coolest city on earth (Reykjavik or New York, surely); that England was swinging once again (not after 11pm); and that Britain had asserted its "rightful" place as the creative focus of the world.

This was the cocaine talking it more than the music could walk it. While Blur, Oasis *et al* were selling well in Japan and Europe, America was roundly unimpressed by Mod haircuts and youthful recycling of the Beatles' back-catalogue — and without breaking the American market no act or movement can claim to be a global cultural force.

Still, the teeth-grinding hyperbole rolled on. Oasis's gig at Knebworth in 1996 prompted an editorial in the *NME* claiming that Noel was "the king of the world", on the basis that he was the "most important man in Britain". This was ridiculous wishful thinking.

As Björk explained in a recent interview: "All cultures — the Romans and the Egyptians and the English and the Americans — they all have climaxes, and they just want to stay there. A hundred years ago you had Great Britain, which is hilarious if you think about it. Can you imagine a Great Iceland?"

Britain's peak was indeed in the late Victorian/early Edwardian years. The Sixties were a small economic and cultural blip. And anyway, as hippy dress was based on Edwardian clothing, even the Sixties were an exercise in nostalgia.

As Britpop was, in the main, nostalgia for the Sixties it was, at root, another mournful longing for the days of Empire and global dominance. This was why cocaine was so integral to Britpop. Cocaine allows you to believe that you are living in the best of all possible times, in the best of all possible countries; rather than accepting that we are down the global economic table and creatively behind the American East Coast hip hop collectives.

Britain *isn't* great any more. The Beatles could never have existed in the Nineties. John Lennon would have shrunk from taking out a student loan and gone to work on a building site to earn cash. Paul McCartney would have been on a Restart scheme filing papers in a solicitors' office.

Britpop was a little, local thing, but we had to pretend it was the biggest news since the Moon landings because to admit that it was merely the 19th most exciting cultural trend in the past ten years would have been to lose face.

Bizarrely, it was the death of Princess Diana that finally put Britpop into perspective. *That* was global interest in Britain. Britpop, by comparison, was akin to the retirement of Humphrey the Downing Street cat. And now it is over. What comes next is the interesting part.

It's no use begging, Jarvis Cocker; you and the rest of Pulp have had your day. The Britpop bubble has burst

Tears in spades for the queen of hearts

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Diana, Princess of Wales Tribute
(The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund Ltd. VVR1001052; two discs £18.99)

DOUBTLESS we all hold her memory dear. And many charities will benefit from this musical "celebration of the life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales". But any album that includes a few new songs and a lot of old ones from Sir Cliff Richard, Sir Paul McCartney, Rod Stewart, Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Michael Jackson, Queen, Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Bryan Ferry, Diana Ross, the Bee Gees, George Michael, Tina Turner, Toni Braxton with Kenny G, Gloria Estefan and Michael Bolton, most of them in full, power-ballad battlecry, is going to tax the capacity for sentimental gush of even the most respectful listener.

There are songs which, in a less oppressive context, one would not hesitate to describe as great: Eric Clapton's *Tears in Heaven*, R.E.M.'s *Everybody Hurts*, Passengers & Pavarotti's *Miss Sarajevo*, the Spice Girls' *Mama*, and a stark, achingly beautiful new song by Peter Gabriel called *In the Sun*, with the simple, heartfelt refrain: "May God's love be with you, always."

But the cumulative effect of so much emotion leaves precious little room for either musical nuance or an individual response to these songs. The contributions merge into one long, stage-managed *cri de coeur* from the pop establishment that, for all its good intentions, is about as stirring as a nice pot of tea.

GARTH BROOKS
Sevens
(Capitol 56599 £19.49)

HIS previous album, *Fresh Horses*, was judged to have performed poorly because it sold "only" four million copies in America, and the corporate structure of Capitol Records had to be altered to his satisfaction before he would allow the record company to release *Sevens*. But despite wielding phenomenal clout and a business brain as sharp as a man-trap, Garth Brooks still purveys in his music the homespun wisdom of a simple country boy on the make.

"Listen not to the critics/Who put their own dreams on the shelf", he warns in *How You Ever Gonna Know*, a typically aspirational song about following your star. "Heaven's not beyond the clouds/It's just beyond the fear", he sings in *Belleau Wood*, a dirge about a Christmas Day truce between First World War troops.

If the greetings-card sentiments tend to grate, Brooks still has an unusual flair for harnessing the old-fashioned virtues of country music to the bland commercial appeal of mainstream American rock. At its best, the formula produces the sprightly western swing of *Longneck Bottle*. But too often the result is mawkish country-rock hybrids in which the music lacks conviction and the mood is bathed in crocodile tears.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Chemical Reaction
(Afrodesia Music AFRCD01 £9.99)

IT IS no accident that the Chemical Brothers have done more than any other act, bar the Prodigy, to introduce hardcore dance music to the rock mainstream. Although unmistakably of the moment, the Chemicals' propulsive drum sound is one with which lovers of the great funk and rock acts of the past can readily identify.

Their influence in the dance world can be gauged by the way in which other artists have emulated their hard, choppy "big beat" style. And on *Chemical Reaction* a bunch of rare Chemical Brothers mixes dating back to 1993 of songs including Primal Scream's *Jailbird*, Leftfield's *Open Up* and Saint Etienne's *Like a Motorway* are seamlessly interspersed with cuts by British underground acts such as Depth Charge (*Shaolin Buddha Finger*), Aphrodite (*Aphromoods*) and Dirty Beatniks (*Don't Stop*).

The sound of these various artists is so compatible you would think it was the Chemicals at the helm the whole way through, although, ironically, the best drum track is by the duo Freakniks on their number *Uncivilized World*, a brutish funk shakedown of surpassing energy and urgency.

SQUAREPUSHER
Burningn'n Tree
(Warp WARPCD 53 £14.49)

A COMPILATION of 12 untitled instrumental tracks, *Burningn'n Tree* is a handy introduction to the maverick genius of Tom Jenkinson, the 22-year-old bass player and programmer from Chelmsford otherwise known as Squarepusher.

Although his audience comprises devotees of drum and bass and other forms of modern electronica, Jenkinson's outrageously fast and fluent bass playing style is redolent of 1970s jazz fusionists. Jenkinson is also the only musician I have come across who will programme a drum machine to play a swing ride cymbal pattern and Elvin Jones-style snare and bass-drum breaks — as he does here on *Track 7* — before plastering a disco bass line and old-fashioned electric piano sound on top. It's a delirious, free-form, yet highly evolved concoction.

DAVID SINCLAIR

NEW POP ALBUMS

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(3)	**Let's Talk About Love**	Celine Dion (Epic)
2	(1)	**Spiceworld**	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3	(2)	**Urban Hymns**	Verve (Hut)
4	(4)	**Greatest Hits**	Eternal (EMI)
5	(5)	**Like You Do**	Lightning Seeds (Epic)
6	(6)	**Paint the Sky with Stars**	Enya (WEA)
7	(7)	**White on Blonde**	Texas (Mercury)
8	(10)	**Backstreet's Back**	Backstreet Boys (Jive)
9	(–)	**Left of the Middle**	Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)
10	(9)	**Lennon Legend**	John Lennon (Parlophone)

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● *Figure in brackets denotes last week's position*

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Frauds to have faith in

LIVE GIG

The Charlatans
Olympia, Dublin

THE CHARLATANS haven't had it easy. Nervous breakdowns, creative blackouts and critical maulings may be occupational hazards when you are in a rock'n'roll band, but the death last year of keyboard player Rob Collins in a road accident was a tragedy that took the story beyond the dimensions of *Spinal Tap*.

The band contemplated packing it in there and then, persevered. To their eternal credit, they returned reinvigorated and with a renewed sense of purpose, releasing the most assured album of their career earlier this year, the chart-topping *Tellin' Stories*. As their resilience has grown, so has their fan base, with this sell-out show at the Olympia marking the opening night of a tour that finishes next month in the 12,000-capacity Docklands Arena in London.

But this is an altogether more intimate setting — a theatre, not an amphitheatre, albeit one with the seats removed — and there was a real warmth in the audience's greeting of the band that was then channelled directly into the group's performance.

With No Shoes is followed directly by *North Country Boy* — an exhilarating start. Singer Tim Burgess either struts and swaggers around the stage, or else he stays put, his dreamy vocals delivered with one hand in his pocket as though he were waiting for the bus.

There is a real kick to the music. The Charlatans are very much a group effort, as opposed to being merely a frontman with four sidekicks. An assertive rhythm section, the wah-wah wail of Mark Collins's guitar and the tempestuous Wurlitzer of new keyboard player Tony Rogers all combined to strike up a soulful blues-inflected rock groove redolent of the Rolling Stones circa *Sympathy for the Devil* and, as has been noted once or twice, the Stone Roses.

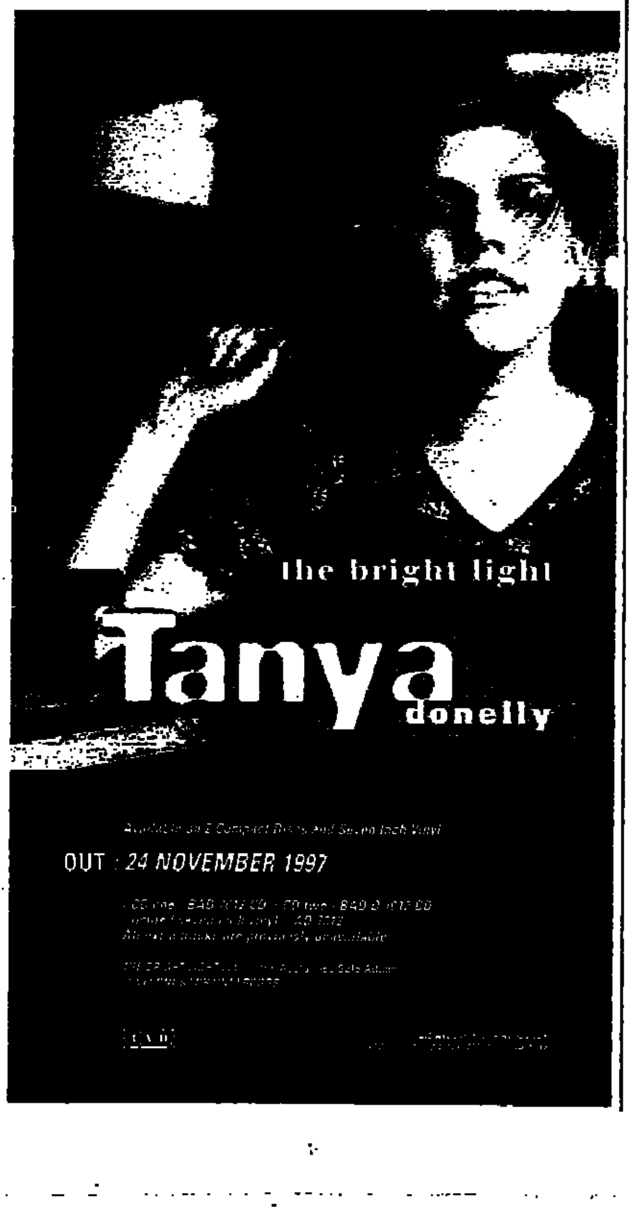
But if it's true that the Charlatans initially rode in the slipstream of their Northern brethren's success when they first appeared in 1990, they have stayed true to their vision and resisted the temptation to be blown off course by the fickle winds of fashion. There are signs of a slight stylistic shift: a gloriously inept one note harmonica break is pure Bob Dylan and there are flashes of Led Zeppelin in some of the guitar riffs. But mostly the Charlatans stick to what they know best.

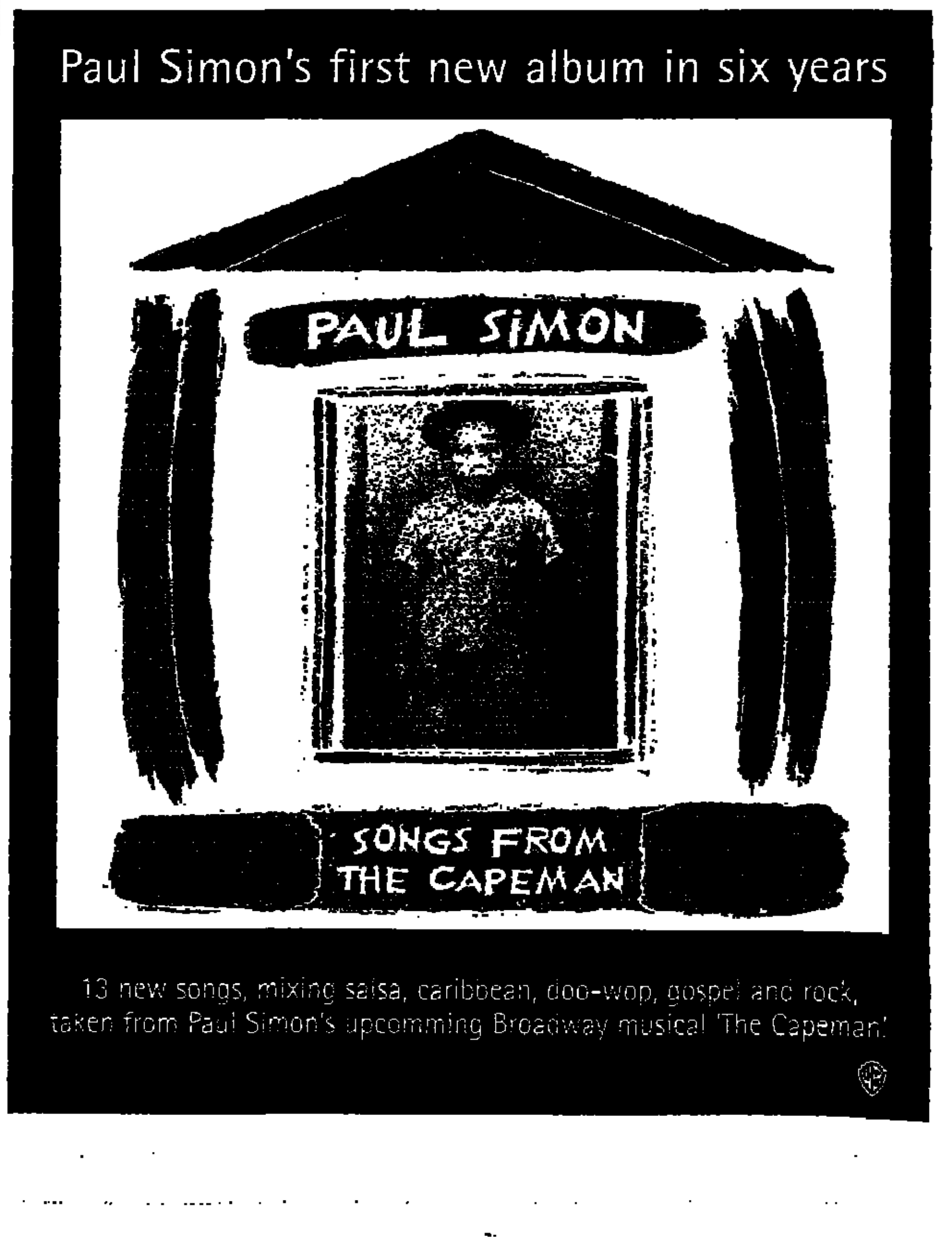
The blustering organ and shimmering guitars of *Weirdo*, the full-throttle boogie of *Just When You're Thinkin' Things Over* and, during the encores, a floor-shaking version of *How High* are all evidence of a band in complete command of its art.

The Christmas lights on stage suggested a band in an upbeat, celebratory mood. Who can blame them? On this form they have got a lot to smile about.

NICK KELLY

CONNER REEVES
EARTHBOUND
THE DEBUT ALBUM
OUT NOW





Paul Simon's first new album in six years
PAUL SiMON
SONGS FROM THE CAPEMAN
13 new songs, mixing salsa, caribbean, doo-wop, gospel and rock, taken from Paul Simon's upcomming Broadway musical 'The Capeman'

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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

HAMLET: Alex Jennings plays the Prince in Matthew Warchus's production up from Stratford. With Derbhle Crotty as Ophelia, Paul Freeman as Claudius.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891). Previews from tonight, 7.15pm. Opens Dec 4, 7pm. In rep Ⓢ

FINNISH JAZZ: The cream of Finland's jazz musicians, the UMO Big Band, joins forces with two of England's leading names of the genre, pianist and composer Django Bates and saxophonist John Surman for an evening of exciting and innovative music-making. Part of the Valo festival of Finnish culture.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

LEONCE AND LENA: Christopher Staines and Sarah Belcher play the royal lovers in the least familiar of Büchner's three plays. David Farr directs Lee Hall's new version, done as a musical.
Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Mon, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Dec 20

PROKOFIEV FESTIVAL: Russian conductor Alexander Lazarev visits the South Bank this weekend to conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra in two concerts exploring the music of his composer compatriot. Tonight's programme features Violin Concerto No 1 and *Chout*. On Sunday the acclaimed pianist Nikolai Demidenko joins the orchestra to perform a selection of works including Piano Concerto No 5.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight and Sun, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: Russell Hunter plays the title role in James Duthie's **Greta**. His niece becomes the first saleswoman at Peterhead fish market, while he chatters on about his Carnaby Street fashion boutique long ago. John Tiffany directs what is said to be an extraordinary play about an ordinary family.
Traverse, Cambridge Street, Edinburgh (0131-228 1404). Previews tonight-Sun, 8pm. Opens Tue, 8pm. Then Tue-Sun, 8pm. Until Dec 20. Ⓢ

HUDDERSFIELD: A packed programme at the festival this weekend offers dance as well as music. Tonight, at the Lawrence Batley Theatre (7.30pm) the **Richard Alston Dance Company** performs works set to music by Birtwistle and Xenakis. Tomorrow at the Town Hall (7.30pm) the **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra**, the New London Chamber Choir and the University of Huddersfield Chorus under Charles Zacharie Bornstein perform works including UK premieres by Gerard Grisey and Xenakis. With Joanna MacGregor, piano. Owing to Xenakis's long illness the programme for the concluding concert of the festival, the **London Sinfonietta**'s 75th birthday tribute to the composer on Sunday (Town Hall, 7.30pm), has been changed. Instead of the concerto scheduled, the percussionist Evelyn Glennie will now perform a shorter work, *Omega*, by Xenakis. Further UK premieres, by Vivier Bouchara, David del Puerto and Pascal Dusapin complete the evening. Marcus Stenz conducts.
Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, (01484 425082)

Joanna MacGregor: at the Huddersfield Festival

LEEDS: Ian Talbot directs the famous Joseph Papp version of Gilbert & Sullivan's **The Pirates of Penzance**. Jeremy Harrison plays the Pirate King and Paul Bentley the Major General.
West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Quarry, Hill Mount, Leeds (0113-244 2111). Previews from tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 4, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thur and Sat, 2pm. Until Jan 24 Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Cartier 1900-1939 (0171-323 8525) ... **Hayward:** Objects of Desire (0171-928 3144) ... (0171-930 6844) ... **Museum of London:** Bedlam: Custody, care and cure (0171-600 0807) ... **National**: Hogarth's Marriage A-la-Mode (0171-747 2885) ... **National Portrait**: John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award 1997 (0171-306 0055) ... **Portal:** John Byrne (0171-493 0706) ... **Tate**: Turner on the Loire (0171-887 8000) ... **V & A:** Carl and Karin Larsson (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **BAZAAR**: A Moroccan immigrant in Spain longs to become famous in David Planell's play, part of the New European Writing season. With Adrian Edmondson, Nitzan Sharron and Nicholas Woodeson. See review, p 38.
Royal Court Upstairs (Ambassadors), West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. In rep

◪ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**: Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **THE BOYS IN THE BAND**: Mart Crowley's ground-breaking gay play from 1968 now something of a period piece with its 'gay means witty but wretched' message. Transfer from the King's Head, Islington.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thur and Sat, 3pm

◪ **BUGSY MALONE:** The cast of the National Youth Music Theatre fire their splurge-guns in the spoof gangster musical derived from Alan Parker's movie. Jeremy Taylor directs.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30 (Nov 21, 8.15pm), mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm. Until Jan 10

■ **THE CHAIRS**: Richard Briers and Geraldine McEwan play the ancient couple waiting for their important guests in Ionesco's celebrated "tragic farce". Simon McBurney directs for Complicite.
Royal Court Downstairs (Duke of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm Ⓢ

■ **CHICAGO**: Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical directed by Walter Bobbie. A multi-Tony winner on Broadway last year. Starring Ruthie Henshall, Ute Lemper, Henry Goodman and Nigel Planer.
Adelphi, Strand, London WC2 (0171-344 0055). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm Ⓢ

◪ **A GRAND NIGHT OUT**: Wallace and Gromit take to the stage for Christmas, pursued to London by the Penguin, escaped from gaol and bent on revenge.
Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, WC2 (0171-494 5090). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm.

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, brimful of deceptions. Starring Martin Shaw, Simon Ward and Kate O'Mara.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thur 3pm and Sat, 4pm

■ **THE INVENTION OF LOVE**: Tom Stoppard's new play with John Wood as the elderly A. E. Housman, careful to keep his love life private, unlike Oscar Wilde, who also appears. Paul Rhys plays the young Housman.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Ⓢ. Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm; mat tomorrow, 2.30pm. In rep.

◪ **SCISSOR HAPPY**: Comedy whodunnit where the audience can play detective. Adapted by Neil Mullarkey, Lee Simpson and Jim Sweeney from the US long-runner *Shear Madness*.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 5.30pm, 8.30pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm

◪ **THE SLOW DRAG:** Jazz musical by Carson Kreitzer, loosely based on the story of Billy Tipton, a woman who passed as a man to find work as a jazz musician. With Liza Sadovy, Kim Criswell and Christopher Colquhoun.
Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, London SW1 (0171-369 1735). Mon-Thur, 9pm; Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) ... ◪ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) ... ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) ... ☐ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ... ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ... ◪ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ... ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **ALIEN RESURRECTION** (18): Sigourney Weaver returns to combat more aliens in a jaunty sequel that ultimately gets out of hand. With Winona Ryder. Director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990)

◆ **8 HEADS IN A DUFFEL BAG** (15): Mobster Joe Pesci loses a bag of severed heads. So-so black comedy, with Kristy Swanson and David Spade. Director, Tom Schulman.
Warner Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

KEEP THE ASPIDISTRA FLYING (12): The struggles of Richard E. Grant's aspiring poet. Small pleasures only in a version of Orwell's 1930s novel. With Helena Bonham Carter. Director, Robert Bierman.
Clapham PH (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220)

THE MYTH OF FINGERPRINTS (15): Drama about a dysfunctional family, with good scenes and a good cast, but a hollow centre. Bart Freundlich directs Roy Scheider, Blythe Danner and Julianne Moore.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148)

ONE NIGHT STAND (18): Absorbing study in infidelity and its aftermath. Excellent performances from Wesley Snipes, Nastassja Kinski, Robert Downey Jr. and Kyle MacLachlan. Writer-director, Mike Figgis.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Odeon Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE TANGO LESSON (PG): A film director learns to tango. Brave and enticing film by the director of *Orlando*, Sally Potter, who co-stars with Pablo Veron.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

UNDER THE SKIN (18): Powerful, edgy British first feature exploring the shockwaves of grief. With Samantha Morton. Director, Carine Adler.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772)

CURRENT

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DONALD COOPER

Vivian Tierney's Letter Scene "held the house breathless, with much furtive fumbling for handkerchiefs" — and this in her first ever Tatyana

All this, and voices too

Eugene Onegin
Coliseum

Julia Hollander's three-year-old production of Tchaikovsky's opera has been substantially recast, relit and redirected, and is immeasurably improved. There are some easily eradicable over-busy effects, but this is now a more than respectable framework for regular revivals of a standard repertory piece.

On Wednesday it was graced by two outstanding performances. Vivian Tierney is an intensely physical performer with body language as expressive as that of a dancer — more than once she was uncannily reminiscent of Fonteyn as Juliet. The set of her head on one of the most eloquent necks in the business, an arm movement, or a minute change of facial expression all tell you with uncomforable precision about Tatyana's feelings at any given moment.

Add to this singing that is equally expressive, with sensitively shaped musical lines emerging through radiant tone and crystal-clear diction, and in an opera largely about strength of feeling you have a performance of almost unbearable intensity. Her Letter Scene held the house breathless, with much furtive fumbling for handkerchiefs. And this is her first Tatyana: what her portrayal will be like in five years hardly bears thinking about.

The second winner is Neill Archer, for some years an accomplished and likeable artist, but one who with his first Lensky takes the Great Leap Forward. Again, his body language suggests far more than just the wispy romantic poet; there's an egotistical sulkiness as well, and his sitting, half-slumped, in profile before his aria speaks volumes about the tragedy of self-awareness, too late.

His tenor has filled out a great deal, and rang out excitingly in the few big moments — all manner of bigger roles are now within his reach — but it was his rapt soft singing in succulent half-voice that gripped the imagination.

Beside these two the American baritone Andrew Schroeder, making his UK debut after successes on the Continent and America, seemed oddly underpowered, almost anonymous — one suspected an unannounced indisposition. His Onegin simply wasn't "big" enough, of voice or personality, for the house.

But with contributions of the stature of John Connell (the sonorous Gremin), Nuala Willis (another very "physical" performer as the Nurse), Christine Rice (the bouncy — too bouncy? — Olga) and Mark Richardson in the tiny role of Zaretsky, there was plenty of weight-making from the ensemble.

Far be it from anyone to criticise a conductor from St Petersburg in this of all operas, but Alexander Polianichko certainly doesn't hurry; when he's giving space for artists like Tierney and Archer to expand into, it works well, but elsewhere his reading can hang fire.

There is a beastly outbreak of coy ballet in the first act that has to go, and John Graham Hall is encouraged to turn Triquet's aria into a three-act operetta. And I'm not too sure about the materialisation of "the spectre of my murdered friend" in St Petersburg. But if it can accommodate performances as unmissable as Tierney's and Archer's, then Hollander's production will do nicely.

RODNEY MILNES

CONCERTS: Sibelius symphony cycle bears repetition; harmonious birthday celebrations

Calm before the storm

LSO/Davis
Barbican

NO JUSTIFICATION is ever needed for a cycle of Sibelius symphonies. The great Finn's symphonic achievement stands equal to that of Beethoven and Bruckner. But if any doubts still lingered about the London Symphony Orchestra's decision to mark the Barbican's Finnish festival with a repeat cycle, rather than by exploring fresh aspects of that country's musical richness, they were swept away in the penultimate concert of the series.

And "swept" is the right word: Colin Davis and the orchestra have built up considerable momentum as the cycle has progressed. Here, Davis unfolded the Sixth Symphony so seamlessly that each movement's sudden end crept up surprisingly fast. But he also caught the serenity of the music, although never at the expense of its natural flow. The melancholy that characterises most of Sibelius's music is transformed into wistfulness in this work, and light broke though at every turn in this radiant performance.

By contrast, the Seventh had an almost spiritual solemnity. Davis adopted broad tempos, enabling the orchestra to revel in the dense textures of the score; but the slow, unstoppable force of their account led with complete logic to the resolution of this single span of music, a dignified close that makes one realise why Sibelius was unable to continue into his projected Eighth Symphony.

The underlying calm of these works is far removed from the despair of the Violin Concerto, especially when it is performed as tempestuously as here by Anne-Sophie Mutter. She began on a thread of tone, but soon abandoned her characteristic poise to play with fervour. Perhaps she dug too angrily into the finale, but anything less intense would have seemed anti-climactic after the first two movements.

JOHN ALLISON

Local band makes good

OSJ/Lubbock
St John's, Smith Square

THIRTY years after he formed his Camden Chamber Orchestra, which soon became the Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, John Lubbock conducted a gala anniversary concert for an audience of evidently devoted followers who have watched it grow from a local venture into an ensemble of deservedly international reputation.

Along the way it has played its part in fostering a number of new works, but the anniversary programme was confined to favourite classics, culminating in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. For this the orchestra was joined by its associated eponymous choir. Something of a three-dimensional effect was achieved by having the male singers standing behind and raised above the orchestra, with the women disposed in the upper galleries on either side.

Their singing in the final movement added a corona of vocal vitality to the orchestra, which Lubbock endowed with a suitably celebratory spirit. His singular merit is that he listens to and shapes the music's inner voices as well as its dominant melodic line, which made for an eloquent slow movement after an almost martial scherzo. Anne O'Byrne, an Irish soprano, added a silvery top line to Christine Cairns, Justin Lavender and Robert Hayward as the other accomplished soloists.

In the earlier part of the programme Marisa Robles brought her harp for a light-fingered account of Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* in a version for this solo instrument rather than the intended guitar, but confined to the always beguiling slow middle movement. Presumably this was to give time for John Lill to battle his way pianistically through Rachmaninov's *Paganini Rhapsody*, which he did with aplomb. If not quite a celebration of *all* the talents, there were enough on display to make a jubilant anniversary.

NOEL GOODWIN

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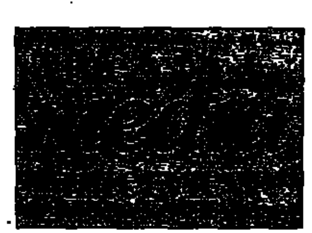
هكذا من الأصل

Think big, think Hollywood, then add a dash of British expertise

Michael Kuhn, the man behind *Bean* and *Four Weddings*, now wants to take on the world. Interview by **Raymond Snoddy**

Michael Kuhn is eagerly looking forward to the glitzy London premiere at the Odeon Leicester Square on Tuesday of PolyGram's latest movie, *The Borrowers*. He has no idea whether it will make anything like as much money as PolyGram's biggest hit, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, or pack them in as unexpectedly in America as Rowan Atkinson's *Bean* is now doing. But it is an important departure for the company all the same.

"It's our first real special-effects movie — and all made here — and I think it's come out just great and we are very hopeful for it. We are going to give it a big push in America. It's like a major Disney launch," says the 49-year-old Cambridge-educated lawyer, who now spends most of his life in Hollywood mixing it with the top studio bosses.



The Borrowers, a Working Title Films production — like *Four Weddings* and *Bean* — is an adventure story for children and adults that charts the trials and tribulations of a family of 4in people who live under the floorboards of a lifesized house and "borrow" what they need to survive.

For PolyGram the happenings off-screen on *The Borrowers* are almost as important as the quality of the special effects. The $30 million movie is being backed by full-scale Hollywood marketing costs, worldwide distribution and lavish parties featuring the outsized props from the film.

No opportunity is being missed to line up commercial tie-ins with all the domestic products borrowed or used. When the little borrowers are trapped in the family refrigerator, the attention to detail incudes the inclusion of Dreyer's American ice-cream. "You have to think of these things way, way in advance but this is what you have to do if you want to be competitive in America," says Kuhn, executive vice-president of PolyGram and president of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment.

His target is the $40 billion annual world cinema market; making small cultural films is not the way to reach it and he regards the agonising by critics over what is or is not a British film as "completely ridiculous and stupid". As Kuhn sees it, the issue is: "How can we repatriate to the UK as much production as possible and how can we make Europe have at least one or two studios that are able to compete with Hollywood?"

The battle, he believes, is not just about winning Oscars but the power that the content conveys. Movies are one of the determinant factors behind who controls cable and satellite telelvision — and the world of 200-channel digital television already launched in America and due to begin in the UK in late spring.

The PolyGram chief has been trying to persuade the European Commission to create a 100 to 200 million ecu film-guarantee fund, which he believes could generate a billion ecus of European production money.

With his colleague Stewart Till, Kuhn has also been trying to persuade the British Government to prod the City into creating a currency-hedge fund to even out the dollar-pound exchange rates for Hollywood film-makers. "If the pound goes up to $1.70, producers are going to go off to Marrakesh. If it goes down to $1.40 it's great to film in England, and Pinewood is bursting at the seams," says Kuhn.

Ten years ago the prospect of PolyGram and Kuhn being in a position to influence the politics and economics of the European film industry, topping the US film charts and bringing in revenues of $1 billion a year would have seemed as likely as a 4in family living under the floorboards.

It has been a ten-year process of slowly building PolyGram Filmed Entertainment and making sure that the inevitable "turkeys" didn't lose too much: the organisation has painful corporate memories of PolyGram's disastrous foray into movies in the 1970s.

For Kuhn, the key was reading *My Indecision is Final*, requiem to a former high-flying British film company, Goldcrest, by Terry Ilott and Jake Eberts.

There Kuhn found what he considered to be the blueprint for setting up a Hollywood studio without the real estate, by doing things differently from Goldcrest in every respect.

Kuhn decided it was essential both to have serious capital to compete in the Hollywood league — $1 billion to $2 billion over time — and to possess your own distribution system; otherwise, even when you have a hit, most of the profit leaks out to middlemen.

"It was also implied in the book that there are two businesses in film, there are cultural films and there are Hollywood films, and the business is really Hollywood films. If you don't make that distinction you get yourself in real trouble," says Kuhn.

GILL ALLEN

PolyGram's Michael Kuhn: making small, quaintly British cultural films will not conquer the world markets

From the business point of view, PolyGram's competitive advantage turned out to be its ability to adapt its international record-distribution network to distribute films.

It has still been a hard struggle over ten years with, even now, no absolute certainty of success.

For his first project, Kuhn asked some people he knew in Los Angeles to make, for $1 million, a film that featured a car chase, an explosion and a fight. Both the American and international rights of the resulting movie, *Private Investigation*, were sold at a profit and "we took our money and ran", he says.

It was a far cry from more recent PolyGram productions such as *Fargo*, *The Usual Suspects*, *Dead Man Walking* and *Trainspotting*. But there has been a catalogue of flops as well. For five years, Working Title produced nothing that worked — even though they were often producing three or four films a year. Kuhn grimaces at the memory of one of them, *Chicago Jo and the Showgirl*.

"Much of my job is to structure the company to allow people to fail. I never thought of dumping them, because I believed in them. But obviously all the time you have to judge it and say when enough enough," he says.

Even now, after ten years, the company has not yet broken into profit, although Kuhn hopes this may be only one or two years away. He plans to gear up production, from the current 12 to 14 films a year, to 16 a year — of which around eight will be for widescale release. Buying a back catalogue of films would also help the push towards profit, although so far PolyGram has been outbid whenever a deal has come up.

Profits may not yet have arrived at PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, despite an investment of around $900 million — not counting off-balance-sheet financing — but Kuhn believes that if you add the value of its growing film library, the return on investment is already 20 per cent, and that is before you add on anything for the digital revolution.

And as one of the legion of "suits" who now run virtually all the Hollywood studios — albeit a suit with a sense of irony and a touch of sardonic humour — Kuhn will happily set out a mathematical formula for success in the movie business.

Happiness among the bean-counters of the movie business is an average "rental to native ration" — the amount received from theatrical exploitation of a movie compared with the cost of making it — of 130 per cent.

PolyGram started off at 50 per cent and reached 90 per cent last year. Kuhn thinks he will hit the Hollywood average of 130 per cent within two years.

He even likes the look of two new movies now in production: *Elizabeth*, about Elizabeth I, from Working Title, and a Stephen Freers western now being shot in Santa Fé.

Looking back, Kuhn says he is amazed how PolyGram has become a real force in the business: it now earns more than $1 billion a year in revenues, with growth rates of 20 per cent, and has its own distribution in 13 countries, accounting for 70-80 per cent of all film revenues.

"In the next two years we will get some catalogue, then we will have achieved what no one has achieved since the war which is to build a new studio — and make some profits," says Kuhn before dissolving into laughter.

Santa's TV surprise for Falklands

Meg Carter explains how UK TV is reaching out

Christmas usually comes in mid-January for civilians and Forces based in the Falklands. The islands' television service screens videos, flown from London to Port Stanley via Ascension Island, up to two weeks after programmes are broadcast in the UK.

All this will change on Monday, when live broadcasts start. For the first time, islanders will be able to watch *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* on the day they go out in the UK. They will also get live news from the BBC and ITN, and selected live Premier League football coverage from Sky, as well as the chance to participate in a local news programme, *Scene Here*.

The news service is run by the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS), which last year had its £60 million contract to supply TV to British Forces stationed around the world renewed for five more years by the Defence Ministry. Islanders and the military subsequently agreed extra funding to enhance the Falklands' tape-based TV service and to make use of a more powerful Intelsat satellite.

"It's a quantum leap forward," says Dusty Miller, station manager for BFBS TV and radio in the Falklands. "Previously, we've had to edit out anything particularly time-sensitive, such as sport and news. Until now, the Falklands have been a logistical nightmare. They are the size of Wales, with the population of Swansea and the terrain of Dartmoor. Five thousand people are split between the Mount Pleasant military base and the capital, Stanley. A further 500 are scattered elsewhere."

Peter McDonagh, the BFBS's director, says that going live was a "high welfare priority" and it was also about broadcasting choice. Islanders have their own newspaper, *The Penguin News*, but the only alternative to BFBS's tape-based TV service is KTV, a small satellite TV service recently launched by a local entrepreneur. KTV broadcasts American programmes from Chile to viewers in Port Stanley.

Radio has also been limited. BFBS provides two Forces stations to army bases around the world — BFBS 1, a Radio 1-style format, and BFBS 2, a Radio 2-Radio 4 hybrid. Until now, Falklanders have had only one service — a blend of BFBS 2, Radio 5 Live and BBC World Service, broadcast on FM and medium wave for most of each day. The volunteer-run Falklands Islands Broadcasting Service provides local programming on FM every evening.

The new 24-hour satellite link with the UK provides six new audio channels. From Monday, islanders will be able to hear BFBS 2 on medium wave around the clock, and BFBS 1 on FM. It will also enable BFBS to increase its daily TV output from 11 to 18 hours.

Mr Miller says: "The live TV schedule will be put together in the UK, taking the most popular programmes from all terrestrial channels, as well as news and sport. We have a camera and cameraman here and we hope to submit more material to *Scene Hear*.

"The next step must be the Internet. Cable & Wireless, which supplies the Falklands with telephone and teleomunications, is looking into it."

Reaction to movie could spawn a string of Beans

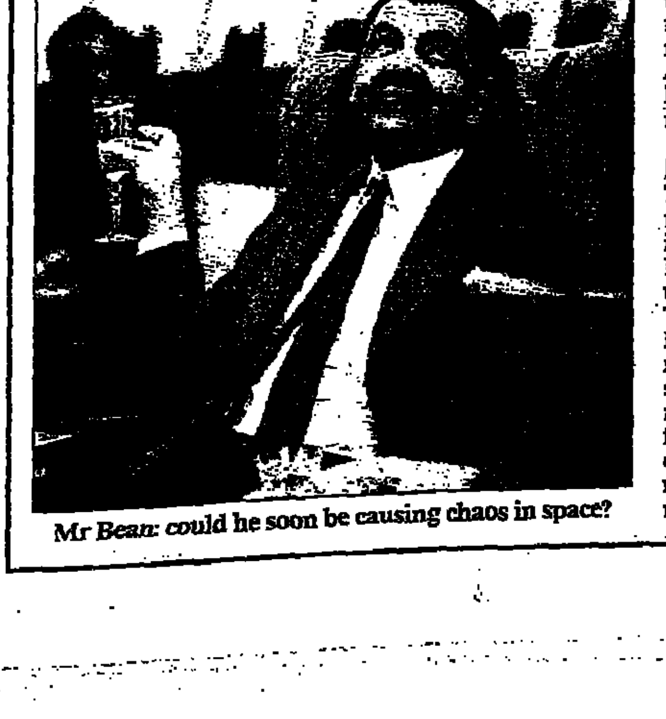
■ MR BEAN is now causing chaos in Hollywood. The global success of *Bean*, the movie — box-office takings $200 million — means huge pressure for a follow-up. But will Rowan Atkinson oblige with *Bean 2*? Peter Bennett-Jones, joint producer with Tim Bevan, thinks not.

"Hollywood can't understand why we don't want to capitalise on our success," he says. But Atkinson is taking a year off. "He'll be polishing his (vast) collection of cars," says Bennett-Jones, whose Tiger Aspect company brought Mr Bean to British television screens in 1990 and developed the movie itself.

But the Bean team, including writers Richard Curtis and Robin Driscoll, does want to develop him further — as a cartoon character. "Really, he's a children's character: they love his selfishness and ability to create chaos. Creatively, it would be very liberating. In a cartoon we can take him to all sorts of new places, for example, space," says Bennett-Jones.

Mr Bean to fix the Mir space station? It's an awful thought.

LIAM DANIEL/POLYGRAM



Mr Bean: could he soon be causing chaos in space?

■ AT THE Royal Television Society dinner this week, the speaker, Mark Thompson, Controller of BBC2, was asked a mischievious question by Tom Gutteridge, Anneka Rice's producer. "If you were allowed to, where would you move *Newsnight*?" Chairman Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, immediately jumped up to rule that Thompson didn't have to reply. But senior broadcasters rushed to fill me in afterwards. Thompson would love to move *Newsnight* from 10.30pm to 11pm, they said, freeing him to schedule a wider range of adult entertainment. *Newsnight* could then expand into a 60-minute news/late review. After all, *Panorama* has been moved to 10pm. But from Hall's reaction, it looks off-limits.

■ WHAT is happening to *The Independent*? It's surely too new a paper to be sinking into senility? This week, Miles Kington's Monday column was reprinted again on Tuesday. The regular, fluent Monday column from its media editor, Rob Brown, seemed oddly stale: it was recycled from the week before. Last Saturday's Weasel diary in *The Independent's* magazine carried an elaborate apology: the entry for November 15 was a reprint of the previous week's. Perhaps the Editor, Andrew Marr, belongs to the (late) John Junor school of journalism? When Editor of the *Sunday Express*, he said: "I really think people would be happiest with the same newspaper every week." He practised what he preached too — between 1954 and 1986 the paper served up the same unfailing recipe: starlets jetting off to the sun, the Crossbencher column, a Giles cartoon. But *Independent* staffers say the once-great paper, with costs cut to the bone, simply doesn't have enough staff to check that the pages are correct. Sad.

■ WHEN John Brown, self-made publisher of *Viz*, held a 10-year birthday party last week, Ed Bye, husband of Ruby Wax, won the raffle: two tickets to New York. A voice piped up that this was unfair: "He gets free trips anyway." John Brown drew again, and a needier media foot soldier got the seats.

■ RESEARCH from Channel 4 has revealed the profile of the viewers to whom chief executive Michael Jackson must appeal. I reprint it, with apologies to Rudyard Kipling.

If you eat mainly vegetarian food
And think it's worth paying more for organic fruit and veg
If you dream of holidays off the beaten track
Yet humbly queue with crowds before the cinema doors,
If you read labels on food to check for additives,
But cannot resist buying those escapist magazines.
If you can spend the unforgiving minute
With 60 seconds' worth of shopping on the Net
Yours are the eyeballs Channel 4 has conquered
And — which is more — you're the Modern Media Person.

The only way is up

Harvard-bound: Dawn Airey

■ DAWN AIREY, Channel 5's gutsy programme director, most prominent woman in mainstream television, has wrung a crucial commitment to her career advancement from shareholders Lord Hollick and Greg Dyke.

In return for spurning an offer from Elisabeth Murdoch, to mastermind a big expansion of general entertainment satellite service Sky 1, they are sending her to Harvard Business School to burnish her management skills. This is the same course which Dyke took before transforming himself from Roland Rat's Dad to managing director of London Weekend Television, multimillionaire, and Pearson's TV deal-maker; and which John Birt was about to go on when the BBC recruited him to be its eventual Director-General (he compensates with one-to-one tutorials with top management gurus). Channel 4's Michael Jackson took a similar course. "I'm sure Dawn will be a chief executive somewhere," says David Elstein, Channel 5's silky-tongued chief executive.

■ THE BBC's mad internal market has been rightly ridiculed for charging programme-makers £20 a time for a peek at *Who's Who* or for borrowing a CD, forcing humble researchers into time-wasting journeys to free libraries.

Now Will Wyatt, pragmatic chief executive of BBC Broadcast, has acted. His policy paper suggests that each BBC department pays an annual joining fee to the library/archive systems, slashing requests for research to about £3 or so.

Common sense takes so long to triumph at the BBC.

■ UPDATE on the British Film Institute's controversial new £20 million IMAX cinema, under construction at the Waterloo traffic roundabout. Newly appointed BFI secretary John Woodward, who has inherited the plan from outgoing chairman film producer Jeremy Thomas, has apparently agreed a compromise which was put forward by Joan Bakewell, deputy chairwoman.

He will take stewardship of the project — it's too late to stop. But he will look for a commercial partner used to running cinemas, say Richard Branson's Virgin, to take it over and share the risk. Insiders say that unless this is fixed, it could be the final folly that destroys the BFI.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

Media times

Stressed for success

Downsizing and backstabbing make media and marketing the most highly stressed professions. **Virginia Matthews** reports

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Under pressure: many ills among high-flyers are blamed on stress and fear in an ever-competitive workplace

Migraines, ulcers, heart disease and irritable bowel syndrome are among the chronic disorders that lie in wait for the stressed-out brand manager or advertising executive, the annual Marketing Society Conference heard last week.

In a culture where everyday distrust, backstabbing and often 14-hour days are given the added piquancy of *impossible deadlines, slashed budgets* and omnipotent clients, it is little wonder that as many as a third of people working in media, marketing, and advertising are, according to a 2,500 sample survey by the industrial psychologist Dr David Lewis, considering quitting their jobs.

Dr Lewis told an audience of marketing luminaries that the marketing and media professions were full of "intelligent, creative and ambitious" people whose high stress levels were directly related to the often minimal levels of control they had over their working lives.

Uncertainty about their jobs and intense competition with workmates, coupled with hostile management practices and bewildering layers of new technology had," he said, "significantly challenged" the view that marketing and media were full of grossly overpaid layabouts.

Many marketing professionals, he told the conference, the Marketing Society's 31st, worked every evening and throughout the weekend to fulfil their job's basic requirements.

Mr Lewis's survey, which quizzed employees in the public sector, as well as advertising, media and marketing personnel, found that time pressures — an important contributor to stress — are intensifying throughout the private and public sectors. As many as 83 per cent of marketing professionals believed that managers allowed them insufficient time to complete work to a high standard. The trend towards downsizing had discouraged staff from making their complaints known.

The other industries where time pressures had become chronic were teaching, the health service and air-traffic control.

Mr Lewis said that the marketing industry's record for sacking directors when things got tough was second only to the revolving-door syndrome suffered by football managers: a ruthlessness that contributed to high levels of "fear" throughout all echelons of the industry.

While few media people could compare the aggravation of getting out on time a TV programme, or a radio commercial, with the problems of teaching in an inner-city school — where his survey finds even higher levels of stress — Dr Lewis believed that the innate creativity of media types had its own problems.

"Although it is true that marketing and media attract a certain sort of person — chiefly one who needs a regular adrenalin buzz — many of the people we talked to felt they were creatively compromised by what they did and wanted to prove themselves in a different field.

"Unfortunately, very few of the people who believe they should be producing a Booker Prizewinner, rather than writing clever slogans for dog-food or beans, actually have the talent to do so. This too can lead to great frustration."

Delegates to the conference were told that to minimise stress, they should value and maintain relationships with people they felt they could trust. While marketing and media are not renowned for their high levels of marital fidelity, it was important, said Dr Lewis, that people under pressure at work should have someone to confide in at night.

"Stress and depression can have a chronic effect on the libido," he said, "and this can lead to all sorts of problems at home."

In the survey, almost two thirds of employers said they believed stress to be a significant factor in ill-health; while among employees, 98 per cent of the sample said the same.

Only a third of employees believed that their companies were aware of soaring stress levels and were taking practical steps to help. Another third said that employers were aware of stress problems but did nothing to alleviate them, while the remainder said that their employers were oblivious to the problem.

One of Dr Lewis's practical solutions to stress was what he called the "hand-warming exercise," where an individual imagines his or her dominant hand getting warmer and warmer. The ensuing flow of blood throughout the body can lead to an immediate feeling of wellbeing, he told the conference.

Public flogging for a lover of privacy

Brian MacArthur

It is the divorce story of the decade, according to the *Daily Mail* — and editors who suffered the lash from Earl Spencer after the death of his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales, are relishing his day-by-day discomfiture at each new revelation about his seemingly callous treatment of his wife and lovers.

On the day of the Princess's death, Spencer savaged the British tabloids, declaring that editors and proprietors who had paid paparazzi had "blood on their hands". He twisted the knife at the funeral when he said that the Princess's "genuine goodness" threatened those at the "opposite end of the moral spectrum", a transparent attack on tabloid editors.

Aware that their readers shared Spencer's views, even perhaps aware that the accusation had some truth, editors did not rise to Spencer's attacks, even though many probably knew the details of his private life that are now being revealed. So The Lord of *Hello!* magazine claimed the moral high ground. Sadly for Spencer, now portrayed in *The Sun* as "Lord Lovecheat" and "Lord of the Flings", the claim no longer holds and Spencer has removed himself from the upper end of the moral spectrum without any contribution from the tabloids.

The Spencer divorce saga has all the ingredients that make a story riveting — a millionaire lord of the realm, a spurned wife, a string of lovers (also apparently spurned) and a quarrel over how much a divorced wife is worth: a wife who was summoned to the bathroom and told she was being divorced while milord soaped himself in the bath. Simultaneously ashamed by our prurience but with an insatiable appetite for gossip, we long to know what happens next when aristocratic toffs fall out.

As the headlines suggest, it is not only tabloid editors who have had a field day. "Earl Spencer Cheated With 12 Women in 5 Months" *(The Sun)*. "Earl admitted he was a cruel, vicious bully" *(The Daily Telegraph)*. "Bully Spencer kept me from Diana's funeral" *(Daily Mail)*. "Spencer: I can't afford divorce claim. I only earn £1 million a year" (a gift for *The Guardian)*.

The accusations and counter-accusations in Cape Town were also a gift to editors campaigning against a law of privacy. As the *Daily Mail* was quick to point out, what right has a man who behaves in this fashion to set himself up as a campaigner for a law of privacy? Spencer's attitude was "old-fashioned lordly arrogance masquerading as high principle", said Henry Porter.

The sisterhood has also rallied behind Lady Spencer. Angela Levin, a biographer of Spencer's father, suggested in the *Daily Mail* that Spencer was a product of nature and nurture. Both his father and grandfather had treated their wives in similar fashion. In *The Times*, Maureen Freely celebrated the rise of "matron" power.

At *The Mirror*, the Editor, Piers Morgan, was resisting any temptation to gloat, even though in 1995 when he edited the *News of the World* he was the subject of a successful complaint by Earl Spencer to the Press Complaints Commission about invasion of privacy. Morgan had published pictures of Lady Spencer at a private clinic and was publicly rebuked by Rupert Murdoch.

Spencer has been naive at best, foolish at worst, he believes. If he had settled out of court his serial adultery would have remained undiscovered. It was he who had made himself the nation's moral guardian. Now he had got his comeuppance.

Yet as *The Times* reported yesterday, Spencer and his wife have lodged a joint complaint to the European Court of Human Rights accusing the Government of failing to protect their privacy by failing to prevent publication of the 1995 pictures. They are using *Article 8 of the European Convention* on Human Rights — now being incorporated into British law — which protects rights to privacy for private and family lives, homes and correspondence.

Editors rightly fear that a privacy law is thus being introduced to Britain by the back door, although Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, indicated this week that the PCC could become the privacy tribunal if it set up a fund for victims of press intrusion and thereby sidelined the threat of judges assuming the task.

No such tribunal, however, would have saved Spencer his embarrassment this week. The cruel paradox for Spencer is that he apparently hoped a South African court would be less prodigal than a British court in deciding on Lady Spencer's divorce settlement. Yet had he initiated the case in Britain, most of the salacious detail in the affidavits would not have emerged for public consumption. That bit of privacy was already protected by British law.

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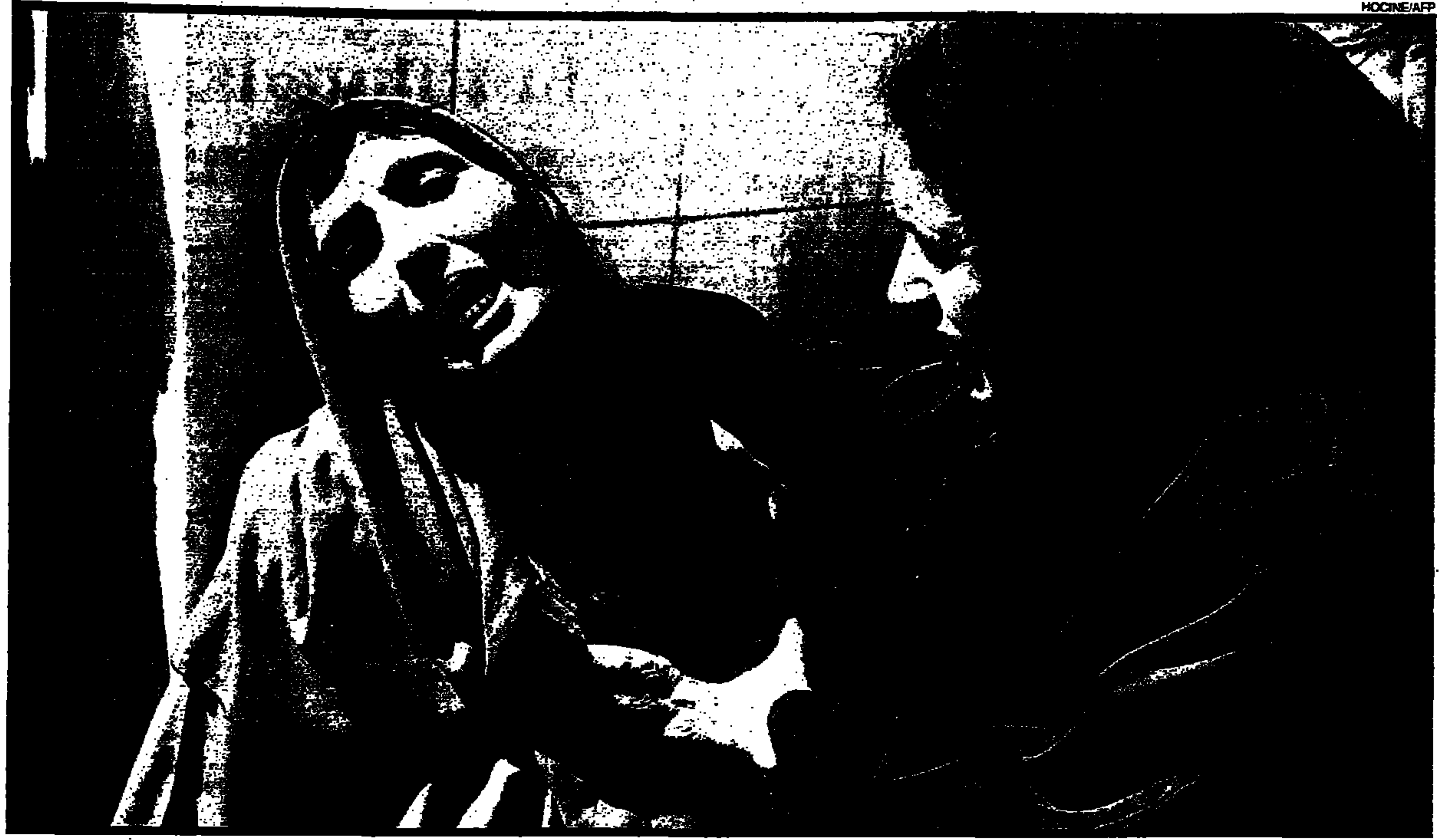


HOCINE/AFP

Hocine's photograph of a mother collapsing as she discovers her eight children have been murdered brought Algeria's horror home to the world

Icon of a hidden war

Michel Guerrin tells the story behind the photograph that awoke the world to Algeria's horrific conflict

This is a picture of a mother on her knees supported by another mother. It is, in short, a Pietá: an image carrying a wealth of our own cultural baggage. The Madonna in Hell. One more massacre in Algeria, this time in Bentalha, a village a few kilometres from Algiers. The icon is timeless, not a news picture: but then news has little meaning in Algeria today.

Stripped of everything else, this photograph is about grief; grief so intense that we can see in our mind's eye the rows of corpses lined up in the early hours of the morning. Its use on the front pages of most French, Spanish, Italian and Lebanese dailies, plus the *International Herald Tribune, The Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times* helped to create an icon of the war.

It carries a weight of emotion — and some information: "The woman below has just lost all eight of her children; the woman supporting her has just lost her parents." All murdered in Bentalha. The photographer, Hocine, is Agence France Presse's (AFP) only accredited photographer in Algeria. Why, he muses, was it this particular shot that caught the imagination of the media? Events the day after the massacre at Bentalha on September 22 illustrate the difficulties of being a photographer in a country where, according to a local press photographer, "a camera is considered more dangerous than a Kalashnikov."

Alerted to the massacre, a few photographers reached the site around 9am. "I was stopped by police in plain clothes four or five times. I couldn't get my camera out," says Hocine.

"The bodies of the victims had been laid out in a school. There was no way of getting in without running the gauntlet of the people who were outside."

To find out exactly how many had been massacred, a reporter from the newspaper *Al Watan* managed to get into the cemetery. "The official figure was 85 dead; we made it 252," he says.

Getting the news out has become even more difficult since the massacre at Rais on August 29. While there is no formal ban, getting a picture is purely a matter of luck: what time the photographer arrives there, the mood of the police, what sort of deal negotiated. "It's a game of hide and seek," says one photographer, who uses a tiny spy camera to worm his way in. Even for him, he says, things have got "much tougher". Which is why Hocine goes for pictures that probe beyond the surface: "more about emotions than news".

Hocine's famous photograph was not, therefore, taken in the village but at Zmirli hospital on the outskirts of Algiers, where mothers had gathered in the hope of discovering survivors. They were not allowed inside the hospital, but searched through the lists of names pinned up at the entrance.

After discovering that there was no hope for any of her eight children, the woman in his photograph crumpled to the ground, almost fainting. Hocine leant over and snapped while the police were otherwise occupied. He removed the film and jumbled it with others in his bag. Moments later, the new film was stripped out of his camera by the police, but the one that mattered survived. At 3.22pm the same day, the film was being distributed worldwide via AFP.

Hocine is one of around 20 press photographers who work for the Algerian dailies. Faced with the additional problem of visas and insurance, there are few foreign photographers on the scene.

The job of gathering the evidence of a country at war is left to a younger generation of Algerian photographers, "most of them well under 25 years old", according to one reporter. They have neither experience nor training, yet they have "a burning desire to break new ground".

A number of editors and photographers have noticed a change in the role of pictures in the Algerian daily press. "Photography is more and more important; words no longer want to speak," says a journalist on *Al Watan*. "When words have lost the power to convey the horror of this endless succession of unspeakable atrocities, photos take over and fill out the front page."

In fact, the photographs coming out of Algeria are extremely limited. Three Algerian photographers have therefore just set up a picture agency, News Press, and are distributing worldwide through Sipa in Paris. Its manager, Ouaheb, is an old hand in the business: "Algeria itself is in danger; why not write my name? I'll go on doing this until I die. We drink our bottle of whisky daily as we wait. We laugh. We live." He believes it is still possible to work without too many limitations, and plans to set up a correspondent in every sizeable town in Algeria within the next few months — about 40 in all.

He has no doubts about the role of photography in Algeria. "You have to shock people if you want them to act. My photos are tough." — like the one of the small girl with her throat slit being pulled out of a well that she had been thrown into. "People who don't believe that the massacres are happening change their minds when they see them," he says.

Everyone knows that there are photographs from Algeria — babies with their throats slit and burnt in ovens, the heads of two small boys in a sack — too terrible to be shown. The French magazine *Marianne* published the latter on September 8 with the following caption: "Photos from Algeria. Do you want to see them? All of them? Or would you rather have Diana?"

● *This article, translated from* Le Monde, *appears in* Index on Censorship. *Subscriptions: 0171-278 2313*

Nike joins trend for giving agencies the boot

■ FIRST Guinness, now Nike. The American sportswear giant has become the second high-profile advertiser in two weeks to dump its existing agency, despite paying fulsome tribute to the quality of its advertising and enjoying demonstrable success in the marketplace.

When Nike publicly praised TBWA Simons Palmer's recent Parklife commercial as "perhaps the finest football ad ever made", one might have known the writing was on the wall. Such public endorsements have become advertising's equivalent of the football chairman expressing every confidence in his manager.

You will have seen this advert, noticed years of hard-hitting Nike posters starring the likes of Eric Cantona, Ian Wright and Les Ferdinand, and know the "Just Do It" slogan, even though the company often just uses its logo to sign off its adverts. But you will also have seen last year's epic good-versus-evil commercial, in which a team captained by Eric Cantona saw off a team of devils.

This was made by Wieden & Kennedy, the agency that has for years been thought of as America's sexiest, largely on account of its work for Nike. Since co-founder Dan Wieden coaxed Nike's Phil Knight out of his loathing for advertising and admen in 1982, client and agency have grown together. Wieden runs Nike's adverts worldwide.

In 1992, Wieden opened in Amsterdam, putting still further pressure on the UK agency that was the only glitch in this global hold on advertising's joint-sexiest account (along with Levi's). However, Nike chose to stay loyal to the agency then known as Simons Palmer Denton Clemmow and Johnson, ignoring its silly name because of its successful work.

However, when Simons Palmer etc merged with TBWA earlier this year, it gave Nike an excuse to look around. It is the kind of advertiser that had begun to believe its own press about how cool it is, and some at Nike felt they were just another client at the new TBWA Simons Palmer, where others include Nissan, *The Sun*, Goldfish and Sony.

So Nike staged a review. We will never discover how the UK agencies, WCRS and St Luke's feel about having taken part. It is not done in the agency business to criticise clients, no matter how badly they have behaved. You never know when they will be looking around again.

The result is the only positive development in this sorry tale. Wieden & Kennedy will carry out its decade-long threat to open in London.

While cynically acknowledging that it was unlikely to do so without guaranteed Nike business, it will be the most interesting and refreshing start-up to hit London in years.

Wieden's other major American clients are Microsoft and Coca-Cola. Together with Nike they form a list any start-up would kill for, although it doesn't have them here — yet. While the agency is bound to be restricted by Nike as to what other clients it might handle initially, it is unlikely to be long before it becomes a major force, pitching for some of the best accounts around.

The chief forseeable snag — ironically — is the very thing that cost TBWA Simons Palmer its most prized account: politics. In this case, it is the resistance of the local UK marketing department to being told by Coca-Cola in Atlanta, and Microsoft in Seattle, for example, what to do. However, in today's global marketing business, the local staff might huff and puff a while, but in the end they will be forced to toe the company line.

■ TALKING of politics, the waning influence of the national marketing department in the face of pressure from the centralised regional function became only too evident this week when General Motors Europe awarded the £30 million pan-European advertising launch of its new Vauxhall/Opel Astra to the small London agency, Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe, the UK's last wholly successful start-up.

It is difficult to comprehend the ripples this sent around the industry. General Motors is one of those clients that has long been deemed rock solid within a giant multinational agency grouping — in this case the Lowe Group and McCann-Erickson, both subsidiaries of the giant InterpublicGroup (IPG).

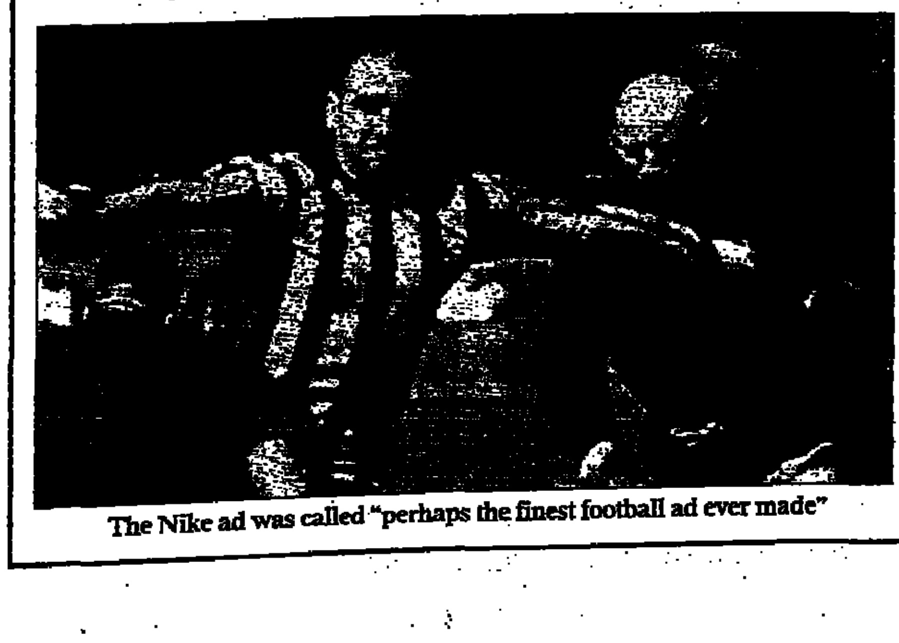
Multinational agencies are traditionally built on such clients. They open offices around the world on the promise of business like GM's. There remains an overall trend towards global, or at least regional, centralisation of business into one agency or group.

But ever since Coca-Cola humiliated the IPG subsidiary McCann-Erickson in the early Nineties by putting business into the Creative Artists Agency, then run by Michael Ovitz, there has been a significant stream of clients such as Sony, Microsoft, Levi's, and now GM, that have bucked this trend.

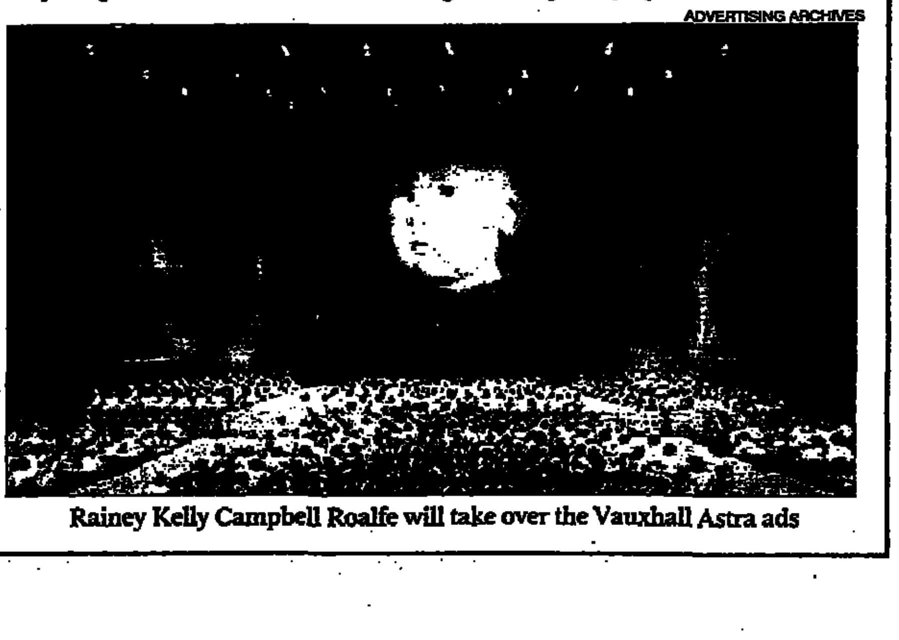
It all goes to add to the feeling that after 25 years of relative inertia, when things were done as they always had been done, there is a growing air of anything goes. Giant clients such as Unilever are going outside their agency and appointing tiny start-ups with new silly names such as Mother, to the panic and consternation of the big boys. While Rainey Kelly will scarcely be able to believe its success, Phil Geier, chief executive of IPG, will be on the warpath. At last the advertising business has woken up.

● *Stefano Hatfield is Editor of* Campaign.

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES



The Nike ad was called "perhaps the finest football ad ever made"



Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe will take over the Vauxhall Astra ads

BBC's World Service set to enter the television age

A BBC institution faces a new challenge, says Raymond Snoddy

The BBC World Service, which broadcasts in 45 languages to a regular audience of more than 143 million people, is seeking government approval to move into television.

There is no actual prohibition against television in the constitutional documents of the World Service, but in the past government permission has not been given to use Foreign Office money for such a purpose. Last year a possible television joint venture in Russia was rejected. "I imagine they refused because of fears that it would involve megamillions," says Sam Younger, managing director of the World Service. He believes that a modest involvement in television in areas of the world that are unlikely to be commercially attractive to BBC Worldwide need not cost much but could be significant for the future of the organisation. "When the aim is to get our content through [to audiences], if television is a better method of doing that, then that is the way we should go," says Mr Younger.

Sam Younger

His plans range from putting money into dubbing and subtitling television pictures and world news bulletins produced with a local partner, to ultimately launching local television newsgathering.

The World Service is not thinking about providing English-language television, but a vernacular service for places such as Russia, Indonesia and Africa where it might make a difference.

The desire for the freedom to move gradually into television is part of a much wider debate about the future role of the World Service and what channels should be used to reach its audiences in an increasingly multi-media environment.

The new Government appears more sympathetic to the World Service than recent Conservative governments, which have tended to chisel at its budget. But Mr Younger is very aware that persuading them to come up with more money will still be difficult.

A proposed £5 million cut was restored in last November's budget but it is clear there will be no additional money for the next two years. In the last financial year the Government grant to run the World Service totalled £174.6 million.

"What we are doing is getting into a longer-term discussion about the next five years from the 1999/2000 [financial year]. What we want them to do is to share our view of what we can do and be, and then hope that they will be sympathetic to putting in an extra bit of money which, in Treasury terms, is peanuts — 1 to 2 per cent in real terms," says Mr Younger.

Apart from a modest move into television, the World Service believes it has to look increasingly at a variety of ways to reach its audience. While short-wave broadcasts will remain the backbone of the service, in many parts of the world short-wave sound quality is increasingly unacceptable to audiences used to FM.

The World Service has responded by offering programmes for rebroadcast in FM and gaining access to local FM frequencies in individual countries.

It has been granted an FM frequency for its service in Jordan — which would probably have been unthinkable only a few years ago. The service has had its own frequencies in such cities as Berlin and Singapore for years but now has FM frequencies such diverse places as Dakar and Kampala, Dohar and Qatar, and is about to add Nairobi and Mombasa to the list.

In areas of the world where editorial compatibility is possible, the World Service is going a step further and entering co-production deals. The latest one, to be signed early next month, is with the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

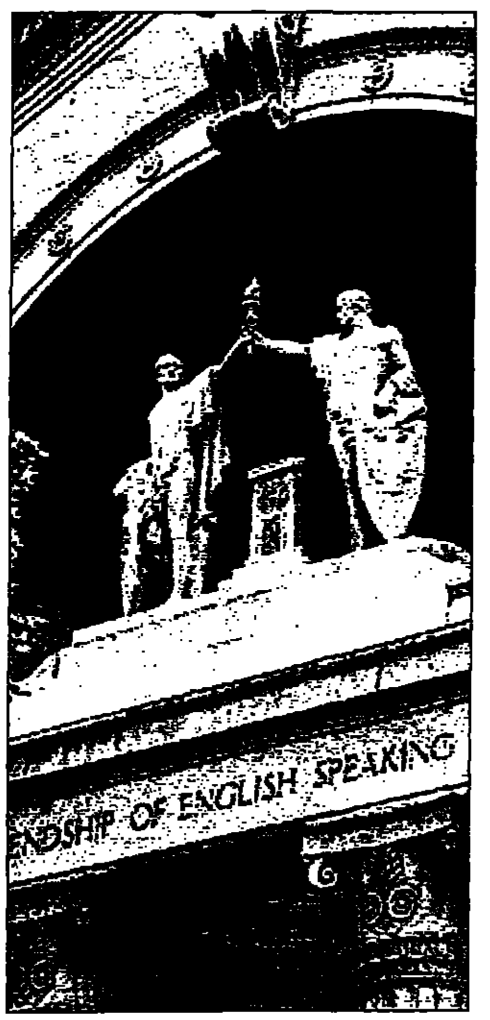
"There are not too many areas of the world where you can actually do it. You have to tread carefully," says Mr Younger. "But in the long term it is a way of maintaining relevance and [audience] reach in markets where we are no longer competing as a local provider."

The text of World Service bulletins is now being provided for the BBC's online news service, with Cantonese bulletins already available and a number of other languages likely in the next six months. The World Service also hopes to add voice, although because of the cost that may need a partner. Work is also progressing on plans to improve short-wave quality by turning it into a digital signal.

A new international group, Digital Radio Mondial, is being set up to create a single standard for short-wave digital. Widespread implementation of the service is probably a few years away because of the need to upgrade transmitters and produce radio receivers at mass-market prices.

The World Service and other international broadcasters are also negotiating with WorldSpace, an American-based company that plans to launch three digital radio satellites — the first next year. Although the satellites are already under construction, there is concern at the likely cost of the receivers and the fact that they need a "line of sight" with the satellites to be effective.

While technology develops, and with it the possibility of more new radio channels, the World Service hopes within the next year to produce a second radio channel in embryo. A mixed schedule of programming will still be provided by short wave but the plan is to make around nine hours a day of news and current affairs segments available via satellite for early morning and late evening and "drive,times" in the main regions.



The World Service: wide-ranging plans

To begin with, the new stream of FM programming will be for rebroadcasting but Mr Younger believes it can gradually be developed into a second channel.

He is convinced that after half a century of World Service dominance, it is "not realistic" to think that the BBC can continue being the leader only with short wave. "We have all the skills and experience to do it across a number of media and be the leader in the 21st century — and all for a modest extra cost," he says.

He accepts, however, that increased competition may make it hard to hold on to the present 143 million regular listeners which can be measured — the actual number is almost certainly higher.

Mr Younger has taken heart from a recent study in Turkey. It revealed that around 1 per cent of the Turkish population listened to World Service broadcasts. But in Ankara and Istanbul, the total included 25 per cent of the country's chief executives and MPs.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

In politics, all that counts is good news

Attacking your rivals may be a waste of time. **Martin Rosenbaum** reports

Viewers are strongly swayed by positive reporting of a political party's activities, but are largely unaffected by negative coverage, according to a recent academic study. The findings challenge the common wisdom among political strategists, who believe that although voters tell pollsters they do not like negative campaigning, they are still powerfully influenced by it.

Videotapes of selected election news items were shown to 240 participants, who answered questions on their political views before and after watching the tapes. Those who watched positive coverage of Labour emerged with a significantly more favourable impression of the party. The Tories benefited similarly from positive news. But those who saw the negative reports of either party were not significantly affected.

The extracts were intended to illustrate the variety of election reporting. Items ranged from serious setpiece speeches and the latest economic statistics, to John Prescott chatting cheerfully on his battle-bus and Norma Major visiting a factory.

"The lesson for political parties is to concentrate on getting positive coverage and not on knocking your opponents," says David Sanders of Essex University, who coordinated the experiments.

Professor Sanders argues that positive messages stand out more from the general background of negative politicking. Voters become so accustomed to negative stories about politics that they are less susceptible to them. "Negative campaigning perhaps contains within itself the seeds of its own long-term failure," he says. "The more voters are exposed to it, the less they are affected by it."

Analysis of election coverage confirms that it was largely negative, with more time devoted to politicians squabbling with their opponents than presenting their policies. Throughout April, the lead election story in the BBC's main evening news bulletin had a positive headline on *only eight nights. For ITN, the* positive rating was just five.

The research team admits that its study measured only the immediate impact on political perceptions of one 30-minute collection of television news stories. The team hopes to look at possible longer-term effects of repeated coverage in further experiments next year.

The results mark a striking contrast with similar experiments conducted in the United States at the University of California. These were based on candidates' own television ads rather than news reports, but they suggested that it was generally negative ads which hit home. In particular, "floating voters" — the target of every political campaign — were influenced only by negative messages.

REX FEATURES

Swinging voters: Peter Snow analyses the election results on his Swingometer

Professor Sanders says that campaign managers of all parties who have been borrowing hard-hitting American electioneering techniques should take heed. "The British electorate is not Americanised — it responds differently," he says. "Campaigning models which people want to import wholesale from the US may not be appropriate here."

However, political strategists are not easily impressed and are unlikely to abandon their deeply ingrained habits. Chris Powell, the chief executive of Labour's ad agency BMP DDB, says: "It is very clear from our research during the election that, while content-free abuse of the other lot rebounds on you, attacks that crystallise beliefs in a factual manner are acceptable and effective. That's why the 'tax bombshell' worked for the Tories in 1992, and why '22 Tory tax rises' and 'Major's broken promises' worked for us this time."

Charles Lewington, Conservative director of communications during the election, is more blunt: "There are times when you have to step back from what the academics are saying and use your common sense," he says. "There is no doubt that people are influenced by bad news coverage about a party on television. If you see Neil Hamilton's face pop up on television for the third night running, saying that he won't stand down, you are bound to think that his party is a shambles."

Professor Sanders is resigned to political parties not paying heed to his work. "It always amazes me how academic research doesn't get through to top politicians," he says. "The trouble with being an academic is that no one takes you seriously."

The future is a computer: in English

Raymond Snoddy

Everybody knows that predictions about the future, particularly those involving the pace of technological change, are usually wrong — often ludicrously so.

In 1939 *The New York Times* was certain that television would never pose a threat to radio because you would have to sit and watch the screen and "the average American family hasn't time for it".

Ten years later Thomas Watson, founder of IBM, thought there was a market for about five computers in the entire world. In the early Eighties, McKinsey, the consultants, thought that by 2000 there would probably be around 900,000 mobile telephones out there. By 1996 the forecast had already been proved wrong by a factor of more than 100.

But the future is fascinating because it seems to be hurtling towards us at ever-greater speeds. A new book out this week, *The Death of Distance*, by Frances Cairncross of *The Economist*, warns us how fundamental the changes are likely to be in the next century because of the changes in communications — in particular the coming together of television, the telephone and the computer.

When your timeframe is a century, it is possible to argue almost anything with a reasonable degree of plausibility, knowing that you are unlikely to be comprehensively contradicted.

However Ms Cairncross suggests that a far-sighted person in 1897 could have predicted that great social change would result from the arrival of the automobile. In a similar way, the author believes that decades of technical progress in broadcasting, computers and telecommunications are coming together in a predictable way to drive forward dramatic social change.

In such a scenario most people on earth will have access to "switched", interactive, broadband networks which will deliver limitless quantities of images and information. Television will continue to change radically, with people likely to end up paying much more for such attractions as live events.

In the index of *The Death of Distance*, the word newspaper does not appear, except with the word "electronic" in front of it. But Ms Cairncross is not a totally mad futurologist. She concedes that electronic versions of newspapers may have to offer many additional services before subscribers will be prepared to pay for them.

Travellers abroad may want the distance-destroying screen version of their hometown newspapers. "Other people may prefer to buy an inexpensive bundle of paper, as long as it can be delivered to the door," says Ms Cairncross.

But it is some of her "big" social predictions for the future that are most unsettling. In future, individuals will be able to order exactly what they want to view or read — and presumably pay for them individually, too. At the same time consumers will face a deluge of information, and companies will need to develop even better techniques to brand and push their products ahead of their competitors.

The information and entertainment producers of the Anglo-Saxon world should also receive an additional boost with the continuing spread of English as a second language around the world.

"It will be as important to learn English as to use software that is compatible with the near universal MS-DOS," Ms Cairncross predicts.

The creation of global markets for information and entertainment will create a new class of the global super-rich — many of them musicians, artists and entertainers.

Cities will become places for entertainment and culture rather than places to work, and the office will become a place for the social aspects of work such as celebrating, networking, lunching and gossiping.

Ms Cairncross also believes that as countries become more economically dependent, and people communicate more across cultures, understanding will be increased, tolerance will be fostered and world peace will ultimately be promoted.

It is probably the grandest claim that has ever been made for the communications industry.

Faced with such an onslaught of change, it is reassuring that, for now at least, Ms Cairncross's ideas are transmitted by old-fashioned paper and ink between cardboard covers.

Of course, as any futurologist knows, predicting what life is like in the middle of the next century is less demanding than trying to work out what will happen the year after next.

- The Death of Distance: How The Communications Revolution Will Change Our Lives, *by Frances Cairncross (Orion Business Books, £18.99).*

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Court of Appeal

Law Report November 28 1997

Extraordinary power of Home Secretary

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Stafford

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment November 26]

The extraordinarily wide discretion conferred on the Secretary of State for the Home Department by section 29 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997, which replaced section 35 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, entitled him to refuse to release a mandatory life sentence prisoner after expiry of the punitive term on the ground that, although not thought to present a risk, if released, of committing a violent or sexual offence, he might commit some other imprisonable offence or fail to comply with the requirements of his life licence.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing the Home Secretary's appeal from Mr Justice Collins who had granted an application for judicial review by Dennis Stafford of the Home Secretary's refusal to direct his release following recommendation by the Parole Board that he should do so.

In 1967 the applicant, with a codefendant, had been convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Following his release in 1979 on life licence, and in breach of its terms, he went to South Africa where he remained apparently without conviction or complaint of criminal conduct.

His licence was revoked and in 1989, on his return on a false passport, for use of which he was fined, he was detained in prison. In 1991, following a recommendation by the Parole Board he was again released on licence, but in 1994 after conviction of conspiracy to forge travellers' cheques and British passports for which he was sentenced to six years his licence was revoked.

In 1996 the Parole Board recommended his release, concluding that he presented a very low risk of serious re-offending. The Home Secretary refused to direct release on the grounds that he had failed to comply with requirements of earlier licences and, although not presenting a significant risk of committing further offences of violence, he might commit further serious offences.

He accordingly directed that the applicant be moved to an open prison with a formal review to begin two years after his arrival there.

Mr David Pannick, QC and Miss Eleanor Grey for the Home Secretary; Mr Tim Owen for the applicant.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, tracing chronologically the development of the current law on the present question, referred to: the statement made in November 1983 (*Hansard* (HC WA, cols 505-8)) by Mr Leon Brittan describing the procedures he proposed to introduce for handling the release of mandatory life sentence prisoners; *In re Findlay* ([1985] AC 318); *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Handscomb* ((1988) 86 Cr App R 59), *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Benson* (*The Times* November 21, 1988); *R v Parole Board, Ex parte Bradley* ([1991] 1 WLR 134 and *Thynne, Wilson and Gunnell v United Kingdom* ((1990) 13 EHRR 666).

His Lordship said that section 34 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 deprived the secretary of state of any effective role in relation to discretionary life sentence prisoners. The punitive term was fixed by the sentencing judge, the assessment of risk was made by the Parole Board whose sole concern in that assessment, the section made plain, was with the protection of the public.

That was to be understood in the context of the violent or sexual offence for which the prisoner had in the first place been sentenced.

That was, however, in sharp contrast to section 35 which made plain that in the case of mandatory life sentence prisoners the secretary of state retained a broad discretion to refer, or not refer cases to the board and to release, or not to release, the only explicit constraint being that he might not release where the board, having been consulted, recommended no release.

It was during the parliamentary debates on the 1991 legislation that the Home Office Minister advanced the view that a mandatory life sentence prisoner had committed a crime of such gravity that he had forfeited his liberty to the state for the rest of his days She also referred to a presumption that the offender should remain in custody until and unless the Home Secretary concluded that the public interest would be better served by the prisoner's release than by his continued detention: see *Hansard* (HC Debates) (July 16, 1991: cols 309-310).

His Lordship referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Cox* ((1991) 5 Admin LR 17); *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Creamer* (unreported, October 21, 1992); to directions given by the Home Secretary to the Parole Board, under section 32(6) of the 1991 Act on March 30, 1993, concerning the release of mandatory life sentence prisoners and the transfer of life sentence prisoners to open conditions.

He also referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Doody* ([1994] 1 AC 531); the Home Secretary's parliamentary answer, prompted by that decision, of July 27, 1993 (*Hansard* (HC WA, cols 863-5)); *Wynne v United Kingdom* ((1994) 19 EHRR 333); *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Singh* (unreported, March 16, 1995); *Hussain v United Kingdom* ((1996) 22 EHRR 1) and to section 28 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997, which replaced section 34 of the 1991 Act and gave effect to that decision, assimilating the position of mandatory prisoners detained during her Majesty's pleasure with that of discretionary life sentence prisoners and detainees.

That section provided that in the case of each the sole test for release following completion of the punitive term was to be that confinement was no longer necessary for the protection of the public.

Having referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Venables and Thompson* ([1997] 3 WLR 23) and *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Pierson* ([1997] 3 WLR 492) his Lordship said that, as judges in the various cases had treated, and as the Home Secretary plainly accepted, in relation to discretionary life sentence prisoners, detainees and those detained during her Majesty's pleasure, danger to the public was the only ground on which continued detention could be justified once the prisoner had served the punitive term fixed for his case.

However, section 29 of the 1997 Act, which replaced section 35 of the 1991 Act, preserved a different regime for mandatory life sentence prisoners, their release being subject only to the secretary of state's discretion.

The only statutory constraint on that exercise was that he might not, subject to section 36 of the 1991 Act and section 30 of the 1997 Act, release such a prisoner unless recommended by the Parole Board to do so and after consultation with the Lord Chief Justice together with the trial judge if available.

He was not obliged to direct release even if recommended to do so and in deciding whether to release he might properly have regard to considerations of a broader character than danger to the public. Factors relevant to release included policy reasons, public acceptability and the need to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system.

He had publicly directed the Parole Board that in exercising his discretion to release such a prisoner he took account of matters going beyond the risk posed by the prisoner and that he was concerned with the wider political implications of release, including the effect on public confidence in the life sentence system which release might have and the public response to the release of such a prisoner.

He had also publicly directed the board that before recommending release it should consider whether the risk of the prisoner committing further imprisonable offences after release was minimal and whether the prisoner was likely to comply with the conditions of his life licence and the requirements of supervision.

He had told Parliament that such a prisoner should not assume that he would be released on completion of his punitive term, even if he was no longer considered to be a risk to the public, and that before releasing such a prisoner he would consider the public acceptability of early release.

There was no ambiguity in those statements, nor was it suggested that they had ever been modified or withdrawn. Despite an opportunity to do so in the 1997 Act, Parliament had done nothing to circumscribe or control the exercise of the secretary of state's discretion.

He had announced what his policy was and the decision now challenged was not a departure from it. His direction to the board in March 1993 and his parliamentary answer of July 27, 1993 were couched in broad terms.

His Lordship did not accept that the word "risk" there used was properly to be understood as limited to the risk of violent or sexual offending. The Home Secretary had not said so.

It was not for the courts to circumscribe the effect of his general references to "a further imprisonable offence", "re-offending" and "further offences".

The system of release on life licence could reasonably be thought to be brought into discredit if those so released committed serious offences of dishonesty or flouted the conditions on which they had been released.

It was irrelevant whether members of the court, as individuals, agreed or disagreed with that view. As judges, their only concern was with the lawfulness of the Home Secretary's conduct.

The court had to bear in mind that Parliament had seen fit to confer on him an extraordinarily wide discretion which he had not narrowed in the way suggested.

Although allowing the appeal and dismissing the application for judicial review, the facts of the case caused his Lordship considerable concern.

The term the applicant now faced had not been imposed by way of punishment, because he had already served the punitive term which his serious previous offences had been thought to merit. The term had not been imposed because he was thought to present a danger to the public.

It was not submitted that it bore any relation to the gravity of any future imprisonable offence which he might commit or that it was needed to ensure future compliance with the terms of his life licence.

The imposition of what was in effect a substantial term of imprisonment by the exercise of executive discretion, without trial, lay uneasily with ordinary concepts of the rule of law.

His Lordship hoped the Home Secretary might, even now, think it right to give further consideration to the case.

Lord Justice Morritt delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Buxton delivered a judgement concurring in the result.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Michael Purdon, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Claiming privilege against self-incrimination

Downie and Others v Coe and Others

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment November 5]

The privilege against self-incrimination, whether as protection against answering a question in the witness box or an interrogatory or against disclosing a document on discovery, had to be claimed on oath by the person who sought to rely on it, even if support and substantiation for the claim might come from elsewhere.

Where, therefore, privilege was claimed on affidavit by a solicitor on his client's behalf the claim was not properly made.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing on different grounds an appeal by the first and second defendants, Alan Coe and David Bentham, from Mr J. Griffith-Williams, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who had required them to comply with an order for discovery of, inter alia, bank and building society statements in an action brought against them and the third defendant, Roy Bonewell, by the plaintiffs, Nicholas Downie, John Martin, Sandra Goldstone and Derek Kenward, in respect of the defendants' alleged misappropriation of funds.

Mr Peter Herrity for Mr Coe; Mr John Causer for Mr Bentham; Mr Michael McParland for the plaintiffs.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in submitting that the privilege against self-incrimination had not been properly claimed the plaintiffs had relied on a series of authorities which included *Webb v East* ((1880) 5 Exch D 108); *Lamb v Munster* ((1882) 10 QBD 110) and *National Association of Operative Plasterers v Smithies* ([1906] AC 434).

In the experience of all three members of the present court it had always been the practice that if any witness sought to rely on the privilege, whether as a reason for not answering a question in the witness box or for not answering an interrogatory or for not disclosing a document on discovery, the objection had to be taken by the claimant on his or her oath.

That that was the established practice was clearly shown by those authorities.

It was plain that the claimant did not have to give chapter and verse to show why disclosure, or answering a question or an interrogatory might incriminate him. As Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, pointed out in *Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation v Westinghouse Electric Corporation* ([1978] AC 547, 574) to require him to do that might expose him to the very peril against which the privilege existed to protect him.

It was also plain that the circumstances of the case might of themselves show that a risk of prosecution existed: see *R v Boyes* ((1861) 1 B & S 311, 329). It was not therefore incumbent on a party seeking to exercise the privilege himself to describe in detail the peril to which he might be exposed.

That rule did not however in any way dispense with the need for a claim to be made on oath by the claimant, even if support for the claim and its substantiation came from elsewhere.

In the present case it was clear beyond argument that the claim had not been properly made and as a technical matter the plaintiffs would be entitled to resist the appeal on that ground alone. However, his Lordship considered that that would be an extremely technical and unsatisfactory basis on which to resolve the appeal. He accordingly reviewed the circumstances of the case and concluded *on the facts that the claim could not be made out.*

Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Buxton agreed.

Solicitors: Chabra Cass & Co, Cricklewood; Harris da Silva; Magrath & Co.

Scots Law Report November 28 1997 Outer House

No indemnity after settlement

Elf Enterprise (Caledonia) Ltd v London Bridge Engineering Ltd and Others

Before Lord Caplan

[Judgment September 2]

Where insurers had settled claims for damages against their insured in respect of deaths and personal injuries on the Piper Alpha platform in 1988, the insured had no right to be indemnified by third parties who had granted the insured contractual indemnities in respect of the same loss as that covered by the insurance policy. Such a claim required to be advanced by the insurers by way of a right to contribution from the indemnifier.

Lord Caplan, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held absolving the defenders in six of seven actions for a total of £8,500,000, which had been heard as test cases, in respect of a total of 146 actions raised by Elf Enterprise (Caledonia) Ltd (formerly OPCAL) seeking reimbursement of about £130,000,000, paid to the families of the men killed in the explosion and fire on the Piper Alpha off-shore platform in 1988, and to the survivors, from contractors who had been engaged by them in connection with the operation of the platform.

The actions were brought on indemnities obliging the defenders to make good to the pursuers any loss occurred to them through the death or injury of any of the defenders' employees. In the seventh action Lord Caplan granted decree for payment to the pursuers of £12,685.57.

Mr Colin Macaulay, QC, Mr Derek Batchelor and Mr Leo Hofford for the pursuers; Mr Alan Johnston, QC, Mr Heriot Currie, QC, Mr Richard Keen, QC, and Mr James Wolffe for the defenders.

LORD CAPLAN, having delivered his opinion on other matters with which this report is not concerned, continued at p1,423 of the judgment:

Contribution

On day 381 of the hearing, in the last day of their submissions, the defenders had advanced an argument that six of the seven actions were irrelevant because they should have been raised in the name of the pursuers' insurers against the defenders for contribution.

It had to be said that that came somewhat as a surprise seeing that the case had proceeded for 381 days without a whisper about the question of contribution. That such a fundamental argument should only emerge at the last gasp of such a long hearing, prima facie did not seem in harmony with a legal system that prided itself on the availability of preliminary procedures for disposing of points that were purely points of law.

Nevertheless, his Lordship held, the parties having agreed on proof before answer rather than simply proof, neither had waived its right to argue points of law after evidence, distinguishing *Lade v Largs Baking Co* ((1863) 2 M 17).

The pursuers' insurers had settled the majority of the claims that were the subject of proceedings under the indemnities. If the pursuers recovered then, their underwriters would have rights of subrogation. There was an uninsured element, but in only one of the present seven cases, against Stena Offshore, had the pursuers required to make a settlement payment of £12,685.57 of their own resources.

A party could only recover under an indemnity in respect of loss incurred. The defenders' point was that the pursuers had already been indemnified by their insurers and could not be compensated twice. The losses covered by, and the beneficiaries of the insurance and the indemnities were the same.

Where in such a case there were two indemnifiers their liability was joint and several, and if either paid more than his share then he was entitled to relief from his co-obligants to the extent of their pro rata share (*Gloag Contract* (2nd edition) p206; *Moss v Penman* (1993 SC 300)), for otherwise the latter would benefit from unjust enrichment.

Unlike a right of subrogation in an action arising out of a delict, such a right of relief resided in the co-obligant directly: see *Sickness and Accident Assurance Association Ltd v General Accident Assurance Corporation Ltd* ((1892) 19 R 977); *Albion Insurance Co Ltd v Government Insurance Office* ((1969) 121 CLR 342).

The question was whether there was any justification in confining the application of those principles to insurance alone. In *Eagle Star Insurance Co v Provincial Insurance* ([1994] 1 AC 130) Lord Woolf had expressed the view that the law of contribution applied to a statutory as opposed to a contractual indemnity. What the pursuers expressly claimed were the subrogation rights of their insurers. They referred to *Darrell v Tibbits* ((1880) 5 QBD 560) which concerned a tenant's obligation to repair the property, where the Court of Appeal had held the landlord's insurers were entitled to be put in the place of the assured.

Contribution among joint debtors liable in respect of the same loss did not seem to have been argued. The pursuers also argued that the question of contribution arose only in the context of insurance and not where collateral indemnities were included in contracts for the provision of services: compare *Scottish Amicable Heritable Securities Association v Northern Assurance Co* ((1883) 11 R 302).

They referred to *Parr's Bank Ltd v Albert Mines Syndicate* ((1900) 5 Com Cas 116) but that was not on all fours with the present case: there the sureties were liable for a predetermined sum, whereas the insurers had accepted liability only for a loss on the sureties defaulting.

Their obligations had been different but here both insurers and contractors were pledged to cover the same loss. Nor on the terms of the policy in *Parr's Bank* could the insurers have been obliged by the sureties to contribute towards any payment made by the latter. What mattered was whether the parties had undertaken the same risk to the same common creditor.

However different the genesis of the contracts, there could be no doubt that the pursuers' insurers and the contractors, if they had any obligations to OPCAL and the participants, had it under contracts of indemnity.

It was clear from the authorities that the contracts that gave rise to the joint debt did not need to be identical.

If a party enjoyed the benefit of two or more indemnities covering the same loss and he recovered his whole loss it was difficult to see on what principle he retained a right to enforce his indemnity against the non-paying indemnifier. His loss had been satisfied.

There was no principle that entitled him to enforce his loss from the indemnifier as there was in the case of a wrongdoer. Perhaps if the indemnities had been granted to cover only facts occasioned by the indemnifier's own negligence some nice questions would arise, but that was not the case here. No one suggested that the defenders had been negligent.

The question ought to be settled on the basis of principle rather than by reference to any rigid classification such as insurance and non-insurance. The law had rejected attempts to confine contribution to particular categories of insurance.

His Lordship's conclusion therefore was that the insurers of OPCAL and the participants did not have any right of subrogation in respect of the indemnities granted by the defenders. They had no title or interest to sue. If the insurers wanted to recover their outlay that would have to be by way of a separate action based on contribution.

His Lordship sympathised with the pursuers' complaint that the question of contribution had been raised late. Clearly, however, the whole matter would require to be addressed in relation to expenses.

His Lordship's conclusions meant that because of the issue of contribution, he would grant decree absolving all of the defenders other than Stena Offshore. He would accordingly award the pursuers decree against the defenders for £12,685.57.

It rather concerned his Lordship that after a proof of inordinate length (over four years) six of the seven test actions had to be decided on a preliminary point of law. There might be considerations which had not as yet, or perhaps could not be brought to the court's attention.

Nevertheless, the defenders might want to deal with that matter when expenses were discussed. However, not all of the time had necessarily been wasted.

The amount that his Lordship had awarded in the Stena action did not properly reflect the value of that litigation. It was a leading case and only one of the cases that had to be resolved.

The total amount was over US $9 million, excluding interest. Thus the decision in the Stena case could well be very important.

Law agents: Paull & Williamson; Simpson & Marwick, WS.

Correction

In *Bilton v Fastnet Highlands Ltd* (*The Times* November 20) the advocate for the pursuer was Mr Andrew Smith.

House of Lords

Impact of pension on amount of damages

Longden v British Coal Corporation

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 27]

Where an employee received an incapacity pension from a contributory scheme that provided for either an incapacity pension or a retirement pension, the periodical payments received were not deductible from that part of an award of damages for personal injuries representing loss of retirement pension, but a lump sum also received should be apportioned and that part deducted that was attributable to the period after normal retirement age.

The House of Lords allowed in part an appeal by the British Coal Corporation from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Ward) (*The Times* April 14, 1995; [1995] ICR 957), which had dismissed his appeal from Mr Justice Douglas Brown.

Mr Simon Hawkesworth, QC and Mrs Margaret Bickford-Smith for BCC; Mr Ian McLaren, QC and Mr Richard Burn for the plaintiff.

LORD HOPE said that the plaintiff had been employed as a deputy at BCC's West Thorpe Colliery, North Derbyshire. He had been injured in an accident there on April 17, 1985 and been unable to continue in his employment. He had applied to the trustees of the staff superannuation scheme and on August 22, 1986 been awarded an incapacity pension.

He had been 37 when he had retired, the normal age being 60. Contributors to the scheme were entitled to either a retirement pension or an incapacity pension, but not both.

The payments that he had received had consisted of an annual pension and a lump sum. In his claim for damages he had included a claim for loss of retirement pension, consisting of the lump sum to which he would have been entitled on retirement at the normal retirement age together with the difference between the annual retirement pension that he would have received after that date and the annual incapacity pension that he was receiving and would continue to receive.

BCC maintained that the award for pension loss ought to take account of the lump sum that the plaintiff had received together with the total of all the annual payments that he had received and would continue to receive or be entitled to receive under his incapacity pension until he reached the normal retirement age.

The judge had awarded a sum for pension loss without deduction and the Court of Appeal, subject to correcting an error in calculation, had dismissed BCC's appeal.

The effect of *Parry v Cleaver* ([1970] AC 1) and *Smoker v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority* ([1991] 2 AC 502) was that incapacity and disability pensions fell outside the general rule that prima facie all receipts due to an accident had to be set against losses claimed to have arisen because of the accident.

It was impossible to reconcile with the decision in those cases BCC's argument that at the end of the whole exercise one had to stand back and assess the plaintiff's net loss and in doing so make the deduction for which they contended.

In order to compare like with like, however, the lump sum that the plaintiff had received should be apportioned and he should be required to bring into account that part that represented the commutation of a part of the annual payments that he would otherwise have received as income during the period to which his claim for loss of retirement pension related. BCC's appeal should be allowed to that extent.

Lord Goff, Lord Slynn, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson, Sheffield; Hopkin & Sons, Mansfield.

School need not supervise leaving for home

Wilson v Governors of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School, Carlton

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Mantell

[Judgment November 5]

On the facts it was not necessary for a primary school to employ a supervisor at the end of the school day to ensure pupils' safety in the school yard on their way out of school.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the governors of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School, Carlton, Nottinghamshire, against liability for negligence and damages of £4,770 for personal injury awarded to Danial Wilson, a minor suing by his mother and next friend Beverley Wilson, by Judge K. Matthewman, QC in Nottingham County Court on July 17, 1996.

Miss Bryony Clark for the school; Mr Philip Turton for the *pupil.*

LORD JUSTICE MANTELL said Danial, then aged nine, had been injured on his way to the school gate at the end of the school day. He had been confronted by another boy, Adam, waving his coat like a lasso. The coat had struck Danial in the eye.

Danial's claim boiled down to an allegation that the school was in breach of its duty of care in failing to ensure that the passage from the school door to the gate was supervised and that had a supervisor been on duty Adam would not have behaved as he did.

The judge had directed himself in law that the school should take such care as a reasonable father would of his family and had decided that that required adult supervision at the end of the school day.

It was argued for the school that the judge had set too high a standard of care and that the finding that the mere presence of an authorised adult would have inhibited Adam was unwarranted.

There was evidence that care assistants were on duty in the lunch hour but there was no particular history to show the necessity of such assistants at going-home time. From age six Danial had been going home unaccompanied. No one suggested his mother was failing in her duty by not meeting him at the school.

The confrontation might just as well have taken place outside the school gates. The appeal would be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST agreed. It was essential to the judge's reasoning and to Mr Turton's argument that a comparison should be drawn between the lunch break when the children were supervised and the time when the children went home where there was no supervision. That was not a proper comparison.

The headmaster's evidence was that of the 200 pupils in the school the dining hall held 90 and the meal was taken in shifts. There were 110 pupils in the playground throughout more than an hour.

The need for supervision over the lunch period was obvious and accorded to standard practice in schools.

The very short period in which the pupils ran or walked from the door to the exit gates was quite different even allowing for the fact that the departing pupils were likely to be high spirited.

There was no evidence that supervision at that period was standard practice as it surely would be if it were necessary.

Solicitors: Berryman & Co, Nottingham; Huntsmans, Nottingham.

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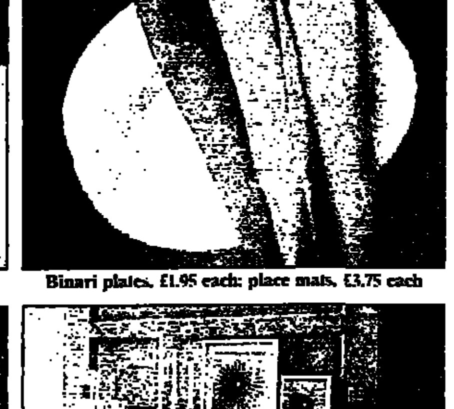
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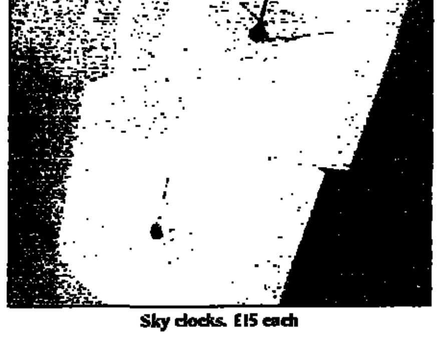
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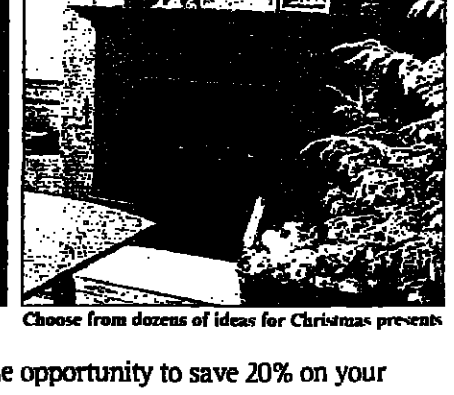
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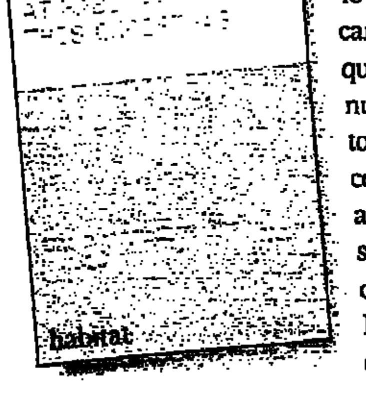

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TENNIS

Davis Cup draw adds to pressure on Chang

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT IN GOTHENBURG

WITH Pete Sampras, the world No 1, here to represent his country, the United States start as warm favourites today to lift the Davis Cup for the 32nd time. Adding ballast to Sampras's daunting presence is Michael Chang, the world No 3, who contests the opening rubber against Jonas Bjorkman, the linchpin of Sweden.

In truth, however, this tie is far more delicately poised. The host nation duly received the lift it wanted yesterday, when the Bjorkman-Chang match was drawn first.

Only two weeks ago in Hanover, Bjorkman, probably the most improved player of 1997, inflicted a straight-sets defeat on his opponent. A similar outcome will require Sampras to beat Magnus Larsson to level the tie — and Larsson has mastered "the master" on their past two encounters. He is the only man to have beaten Sampras twice this year.

Such a cameo is all the more plausible for the impassioned support of an 11,000 sell-out crowd, all of them yearning for an extention to Sweden's outstanding recent achievements. This is Sweden's eleventh final appearance in 23 years and it offers them the ideal opportunity to atone for their surprise defeat by France last year.

Certainly Larsson could not wait to get to square up to Sampras. "The most important thing is that I know what it feels like to beat him," he said, "and he knows that he can lose to me if he doesn't play to his best."

Larsson's sentiments were endorsed by Carl-Axel Hageskog, the Sweden team captain. "I think he has a really good chance to do something big against Sampras and Bjorkman has good memories from his match against Chang in Hanover."

It is not inconceivable that Sweden might end the day with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five final. "He's tough and very talented," Sampras said after learning that he would face Larsson. "He's an awkward player and not easy to play at all. He will obviously be confident because he's beaten me twice. But I did beat him pretty easily at the Lipton tournament and I feel like I'm playing well."

Even Sampras, so composed when playing for himself, acknowledged the extra burden of representing his nation. "It's different out there because you're playing for your country, your teammates," he said. "This is not going to be an easy week."

One of the biggest surprises in the build-up was Sweden's decision to play the tie on a fast, carpet court. Conventional wisdom held that, with Sampras vulnerable on clay, Sweden would lay such a surface to neutralise his game. The party line yesterday was that Hageskog simply chose the surface preferred by his players, although further analysis suggests that the host nation wants Chang to feel uncomfortable.

Chang's record on carpet this year is woeful: he has lost all three matches on the surface. Should he lose to both Bjorkman and Larsson, then Sweden could effectively win the tie with the doubles rubber tomorrow .

The doubles is probably the weak link for the United States. Even outside the Davis Cup, Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti have formed a successful alliance throughout the year. They will fancy their chances against whichever combination the Americans field.

A measure of Chang's apprehension was evident when he was asked about the speed of the court. Sampras, only once defeated on carpet all year, had earlier dealt with the question by describing the court as one of the quickest he had played on. But Chang begged to differ. "I didn't think it was that fast," he said. "So maybe it is good for Pete and good for me, too."

Such mental tribulations are what make the Davis Cup a unique event; one in which world rankings and present form can have little bearing on the outcome.

This United States team looks formidable on paper — but so, too, did the 1984 vintage, comprising John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors. In a memorable upset, they succumbed to Sweden 4-1 in the final in this very indoor arena. It is little wonder that Tom Gullikson, the United States coach, talked of laying a few ghosts come Sunday.

DRAW: Today: J Bjorkman v M Chang, M Larsson v P Sampras. Tomorrow: Bjorkman and N Kulti v T Martin and J Stark (pairings subject to alteration up to one hour before start). Sunday: Sampras v Bjorkman, Larsson v Chang.

'Larsson is the only man to have beaten Sampras twice this year'

CRISTOF STACHE

Chang and Sampras are deep in thought at practice

CRICKET

Shah making late start to busy winter programme

BY JOHN STERN

OWAIS SHAH, 19, the Middlesex batsman who has been named as captain of the England Under-19 party that flies to South Africa tonight for a ten-week tour, is to miss the early matches, including the first international.

Shah has been given permission to complete the first term of a degree in business administration, a part-time course that he is spreading over six winters.

In Shah's absence, the team will be led by Paul Franks, the Nottinghamshire seam bowler, who took a first-class hat-trick against Warwickshire in July. Stephen Peters, the Essex opening batsman, will be vice-captain until Shah arrives in three weeks.

Extensive preparations for the tour have included lectures from Michael Atherton and David Lloyd, who were keen to reinforce their ideal of "Team England", stressing that the leap from youth to Test level is not as great as it once may have seemed.

The 15 members of the party can all take heart from the example of Ben Hollioake. This time last year the Surrey youngster was setting out for Pakistan on a similar trip and made such rapid progress that he won his first Test cap last summer.

Shah could be on a similar fast track. "David Graveney [the chairman of the England selectors] was in on the selection process and he sees it as part of Owais's cricket education," John Abrahams, the team coach said. "He has extra responsiblity and it is important to see how he deals with it. I think he is just starting to come to terms with what is involved and the fact that he is no longer just one of the boys."

David Sales and Dean Cosker, who also went to Pakistan, have been promoted to the A team for the expedition this winter to Kenya and Sri Lanka.

Shah will arrive in time for the second international and the three one-day games, which lead on to the first Under-19 World Cup to be held for ten years. Australia, the holders, are taking the 16-nation tournament so seriously that Allan Border has been appointed as coach.

England have a relatively inexperienced squad but they should qualify comfortably from their group, which contains New Zealand, Namibia, and an Asian nation, the identity of which will not be known for at least a week, when the qualification tournament has been completed.

The top two teams in each of the four groups qualify for a Super League and the top two from that go forward to the final, at The Wanderers in Johannesburg.

At the start of February, Shah will link up with the A team for the Sri Lanka leg of their trip, as will Jonathan Powell, the Essex off spinner.

Shah: departure delayed

ENGLAND UNDER-19 DETAILS

NATWEST ENGLAND UNDER-19: O A Shah (Middlesex, captain), P J Franks (Nottinghamshire), I N Flanagan (Essex), M A Gough (Durham), J O Grove (Essex), G R Haywood (Sussex), R W T Key (Kent), A W Laraman (Middlesex), R J Logan (Northamptonshire), G R Napier (Essex), S D Peters (Essex), J C Powell (Essex), C P Schofield (Lancashire), G P Swann (Northamptonshire), N J Wilton (Sussex). J T Tucker (Somerset) joins squad for early part of tour in Shah's absence. Manager: P A Neale. Coach: J Abrahams.

ITINERARY: Dec 3-5: Western Province Academy (Cape Town); Dec 6-8: The Boland Under-19 (Paarl); Dec 11-14: First Test v South Africa Under-19 (Cape Town); Dec 17-19: v South African Students (Port Elizabeth); Dec 20: v South African Students (Port Elizabeth); Dec 22: v South Africa Schools Colts (Zwide); Dec 23: v South Africa Schools (Port Elizabeth); Dec 27-30: Second Test (Fochville); Jan 3: First one-day international v South Africa Under-19 (Benoni); Jan 4: Second one-day international (Fochville); Jan 6: Third one-day international (Centurion).

UNDER-19 WORLD CUP: Jan 12: v New Zealand (Randjesfontein); Jan 13: v Namibia (Randjesfontein); Jan 15: v to be confirmed (Pretoria); Jan 19-30: Super League; Feb 1: Final (Johannesburg).

Middle order take control for India

AN UNBROKEN 98-run sixth-wicket partnership between Sourav Ganguly and Anil Kumble tightened India's grip on the second Test against Sri Lanka in Nagpur yesterday. They took India to 401 for five at the end of the second day. Ganguly's 67 included 11 boundaries, while Kumble contributed 42.

Earlier, Rahul Dravid and Navjot Sidhu had carried their second-wicket stand to 137 before Sidhu fell for 79. Dravid hit ten fours and a six in compiling 92 and Mohammad Azharuddin sustained the tempo with an impressive 62.

Australia's hopes held up by rain

RAIN ruined the opening day of the third Test match between Australia and New Zealand in Hobart yesterday, with only one hour's play possible.

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, won his first toss of the series and chose to bat, but he and his fellow opener, Matthew Elliott, faced only 15 overs before the weather intervened.

Australia, bidding to take the series 3-0 after big wins in Brisbane and Perth, were 39 for no wicket, with Elliott on 20 and Taylor 18. Attempts to get back on the field were thwarted by persistent rain.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Cup put back in overhaul of game

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Super League international board is set to abandon the World Cup in the southern hemisphere next year in favour of a tri-series tournament in Australia, between Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, during a three-week break in the domestic season next July.

A simultaneous four nations' tournament, featuring England, Scotland, Ireland and France, is proposed and, rather than the World Cup, which is being postponed until 1999, New Zealand and Western Samoa will tour Britain next autumn for the first time.

Domestically, the 12 Super League clubs have endorsed the switch to an Australian-style top-five play-off, which *The Times* revealed earlier this month. The end to the first-past-the-post system means that, from next season, the champion club will emerge from a grand final at Old Trafford, which will replace the usual finale of the Premiership in September.

The play-offs will be held over four weekends. The top league finishers will need to win only one game to reach the final, while the leading three are guaranteed a second chance should they lose their first match. For the fifth-placed side to become champions, they would have to beat all four teams above them. It is a popular system in Australia that, importantly, could lure sponsors after the withdrawal of Stones. As well as sustaining interest, there is the possible added incentive of a revamped world club championship between the British and Australasian grand finalists.

GUIDE TO 1998 INTERNATIONAL AND COUNTY CRICKET FIXTURES

Counties adopt flexible trend

THERE is a radical look to the fixture list for the 1998 English cricket season, which was announced yesterday. It is less rigid than of old, partly because of an innovative international programme — which involves the first triangular one-day tournament to be staged in England — and partly as a result of the flexibility introduced by Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth's blueprint (Simon Wilde writes).

Competition among the counties should be fierce on several fronts, with top-eight finishers in the Britannic Assurance county championship qualifying for a new Super Cup one-day competition in 1999. That year, too, the Axa Life League will be split into two divisions, with those finishing in the top nine in 1998 guaranteeing themselves places in the first division.

The Axa Life League — so often known as the "Sunday league" — will no longer be so simply labelled, with counties arranging games on days of the week that suit them. One reason is the trend towards midweek, floodlit matches. Between them, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire are to stage more than a dozen floodlit games and there could be more.

There is a consequent disruption of the county championship — the first three rounds of which, for example, start on Friday, Thursday and Wednesday respectively.

One of the most striking features of the list is the potential dearth of Middlesex matches at Lord's, where part of the square is to be relaid. Discussions are going on between Middlesex and MCC, the owner of the ground, as to how fixtures can best be distributed, but the county may play matches at Southgate and Shenley, as well as at their usual outground, Uxbridge.

Apart from the visits by South Africa and Sri Lanka, who take part in the inaugural triangular tournament in August, tours will also be undertaken by Australia A and Pakistan Under-19.

APRIL

14-UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Northamptonshire
The Parks: Oxford University v Sussex

17-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Derby: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
Canterbury: Kent v Middlesex
The Oval: Surrey v Northamptonshire
* Hove: Sussex v Lancashire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Durham
Worcester: Worcestershire v Essex
Headingley: Yorkshire v Somerset
UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days)
* Fenner's: Cambridge University v Leicestershire
The Parks: Oxford University v Hampshire

19-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
Canterbury: Kent v Middlesex
The Oval: Surrey v Northamptonshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Durham
Worcester: Worcestershire v Essex
Headingley: Yorkshire v Somerset

21-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire
† Hove: Sussex v Lancashire

23-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Gloucestershire
Chelmsford: Essex v Sussex
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Kent
Southampton: Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Middlesex
Leicester: Leicestershire v Worcestershire
Taunton: Somerset v Nottinghamshire
The Oval: Surrey v Warwickshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Derbyshire

26-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Gloucestershire
Chelmsford: Essex v Sussex
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Kent
Southampton: Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Middlesex
Leicester: Leicestershire v Worcestershire
Taunton: Somerset v Nottinghamshire
The Oval: Surrey v Warwickshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Derbyshire

28-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Derby: Derbyshire v Durham
Southampton: Hampshire v Surrey
Taunton: Somerset v Kent
Headingley: Yorkshire v Worcestershire
UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day)
The Parks: British Universities v Northamptonshire

29-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Essex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Warwickshire
Lord's: Middlesex v Sussex
Luton (Wardown Park): Minor Counties v Northamptonshire

30-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Taunton: Somerset v British Universities
The Oval: Surrey v Gloucestershire

MAY

1-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Fenner's: British Universities v Hampshire
Dublin (Castle Avenue): Ireland v Glamorgan
Leicester: Leicestershire v Lancashire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Minor Counties
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire

2-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Canterbury: Kent v Gloucestershire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire
Hove: Sussex v Essex
Linlithgow: Scotland v Yorkshire

3-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Lord's: Middlesex v Glamorgan
Arundel: Sussex v Hampshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Durham

4-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Derby: Derbyshire v Yorkshire
Chelmsford: Essex v Ireland
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Somerset
Leicester: Leicestershire v Warwickshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Nottinghamshire
The Oval: Surrey v British Universities
Worcester: Worcestershire v Scotland

5-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Lord's: Middlesex v Ireland
Lakenham: Minor Counties v Lancashire
Taunton: Somerset v Hampshire
Hove: Sussex v Glamorgan

6-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Scotland
Bristol: Gloucestershire v British Universities
Canterbury: Kent v Surrey
Lakenham: Minor Counties v Warwickshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Leicestershire

7-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Worcestershire
Chelmsford: Essex v Middlesex
Southampton: Hampshire v Kent
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

8-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Leicester: Leicestershire v Minor Counties
Forfar: Scotland v Derbyshire
The Oval: Surrey v Somerset

9-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
The Parks: British Universities v Kent
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Middlesex
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Hampshire
Eglinton: Ireland v Sussex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Northamptonshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Durham

10-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Somerset
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Kent
Southampton: Hampshire v Essex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Derbyshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Durham
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Leicestershire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Surrey

11-UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)
The Parks: Oxford University v Worcestershire

13-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Derby: Derbyshire v Warwickshire
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Essex
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire
Southampton: Hampshire v Surrey
Canterbury: Kent v Lancashire
Lord's: Middlesex v Somerset
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex
UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Glamorgan

14-VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days)
Worcester: Worcestershire v South Africans

16-UNIVERSITY MATCHES (one day)
The Parks: Cambridge v Oxford

17-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Warwickshire
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Essex
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire
Southampton: Hampshire v Surrey
Canterbury: Kent v Lancashire
Lord's: Middlesex v Somerset
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Arundel: Duke of Norfolk's XI v South Africans

18-UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Durham
The Parks: Oxford University v Warwickshire

19-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Leicestershire
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Yorkshire
TBC: Middlesex v Essex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Gloucestershire
Taunton: Somerset v Northamptonshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Sussex
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Canterbury: Kent v South Africans

21-TEXACO TROPHY
THE OVAL: ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA
(first one-day international)
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Chelmsford: Essex v Lancashire
* Gloucester: Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
* Canterbury: Kent v Durham
* Leicester: Leicestershire v Hampshire
* TBC: Middlesex v Worcestershire
* Northampton: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan
* Taunton: Somerset v Surrey
* Horsham: Sussex v Derbyshire
* Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

23-TEXACO TROPHY
OLD TRAFFORD: ENGLAND v S AFRICA
(second one-day international)

24-TEXACO TROPHY
HEADINGLEY: ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA
(third one-day international)

25-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Chelmsford: Essex v Lancashire
Gloucester: Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
Canterbury: Kent v Durham
Leicester: Leicestershire v Hampshire
TBC: Middlesex v Worcestershire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan
Taunton: Somerset v Surrey
Horsham: Sussex v Derbyshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

27-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Quarter-finals
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Stone: Minor Counties XI v South Africans

29-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Leicestershire
* TBC: Middlesex v Glamorgan
* Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Durham
* The Oval: Surrey v Kent
* Worcester: Worcestershire v Sussex
VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES (four days)
* Bristol: Gloucestershire v South Africans
UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)
The Parks: Oxford University v Yorkshire

31-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Ilford: Essex v Northamptonshire
Taunton: Somerset v Warwickshire

JUNE

3-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Gloucestershire
Ilford: Essex v Nottinghamshire
Southampton: Hampshire v Glamorgan
Tunbridge Wells: Kent v Sussex
TBC: Middlesex v Durham
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire
Taunton: Somerset v Warwickshire
The Oval: Surrey v Worcestershire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Leicestershire

4-FIRST CORNHILL TEST MATCH
* EDGBASTON: ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA

7-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Gloucestershire
Southampton: Hampshire v Glamorgan
Tunbridge Wells: Kent v Sussex
TBC: Middlesex v Durham
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Leicestershire

9-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Semi-finals

10-TOUR MATCH (one day)
§ Leicester or Trent Bridge: Leicestershire or Nottinghamshire v South Africans
(Warwickshire v South Africans if both counties in Benson and Hedges semi-finals)
UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days)
§ Fenner's: Cambridge University v Derbyshire
§ The Parks: Oxford University v Nottinghamshire

11-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Northamptonshire
Chelmsford: Essex v Surrey
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Worcestershire
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Somerset
Leicester: Leicestershire v Kent
Headingley: Yorkshire v Hampshire

12-VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days)
* Arundel: Sussex v South Africans

13-UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)
The Parks: Oxford University v Middlesex

14-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Middlesex
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Northamptonshire
Chelmsford: Essex v Surrey
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Worcestershire
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Somerset
Leicester: Leicestershire v Kent
Headingley: Yorkshire v Hampshire

17-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Yorkshire
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Leicestershire
Basingstoke: Hampshire v Derbyshire
Canterbury: Kent v Nottinghamshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Surrey
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Middlesex
Bath: Somerset v Essex
Hove: Sussex v Warwickshire (1pm start)
Worcester: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

18-SECOND CORNHILL TEST MATCH
* LORD'S: ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA

21-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Yorkshire
Pontypridd: Glamorgan v Leicestershire
Basingstoke: Hampshire v Derbyshire
Canterbury: Kent v Nottinghamshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Middlesex
Bath: Somerset v Essex
Hove: Sussex v Warwickshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

22-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† Old Trafford: Lancashire v Surrey

24-NATWEST TROPHY, first round
Derby: Derbyshire v Cumberland
Lakenham: Norfolk v Durham
Chester (Boughton Hall CC): Cheshire v Essex
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Bedfordshire
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire
Bournemouth: Dorset v Hampshire
Canterbury: Kent v Cambridgeshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Scotland
Leicester: Leicestershire v Staffordshire
TBC: Middlesex v Herefordshire
Colwyn Bay: Minor Counties Wales v Nottinghamshire
Taunton: Somerset v Holland
The Oval: Surrey v Buckinghamshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Ireland
Edinburgh: Scotland v Worcestershire
Exmouth: Devon v Yorkshire
TOUR MATCH (three days)
Fenner's: British Universities v South Africans

26-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Leicester: Leicestershire v Sussex
* TBC: Middlesex v Essex
* Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan
* Taunton: Somerset v Hampshire
* Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Lancashire

27-UNIVERSITY MATCHES (three days)
* Canterbury: Kent v Oxford University
* Headingley: Yorkshire v Cambridge University

28-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
The Oval: Surrey v Worcestershire
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Northampton: Northamptonshire v South Africans

30-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Lancashire

JULY

1-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Derby: Derbyshire v Essex
Darlington: Durham v Leicestershire
TBC: Glamorgan v Surrey
Southampton: Hampshire v Gloucestershire
Maidstone: Kent v Yorkshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Middlesex
Hove: Sussex v Somerset (1pm start)
Worcester: Worcestershire v Northamptonshire
VARSITY MATCH (three days)
Lord's: Oxford v Cambridge

2-THIRD CORNHILL TEST MATCH
* OLD TRAFFORD: ENGLAND v S AFRICA

5-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Essex
Darlington: Durham v Leicestershire
TBC: Glamorgan v Surrey
Southampton: Hampshire v Gloucestershire
Maidstone: Kent v Yorkshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Middlesex
Hove: Sussex v Somerset
Worcester: Worcestershire v Northamptonshire

8-NATWEST TROPHY, second round
Cardiff or Luton: Glamorgan or Bedfordshire v Leicestershire or Staffordshire
Bristol or Northampton: Gloucestershire or Northamptonshire v Surrey or Buckinghamshire
Bournemouth or Southampton: Dorset or Hampshire v Cheshire or Essex
Old Trafford or Hove: Lancashire or Sussex v Devon or Yorkshire
TBC or Brockhampton: Middlesex or Herefordshire v Norfolk or Durham
Swansea or Trent Bridge: Minor Counties Wales or Nottinghamshire v Somerset or Holland
Edgbaston or Belfast: Warwickshire or Ireland v Kent or Cambridgeshire
Edinburgh or Worcester: Scotland or Worcestershire v Derbyshire or Cumberland
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Amsterdam: Holland v South Africa

10-TOUR MATCH (one day)
Dublin (Castle Avenue): Ireland v South Africa
BOYES STORES CHALLENGE (one day)
Scarborough: Tim Rice's XI v The Yorkshiremen

11-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
LORD'S: FINAL
NORTHERN ELECTRIC TROPHY (one day)
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Durham

12-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan
The Oval: Surrey v Leicestershire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Kent
(matches involving Benson and Hedges finalists to be played on July 13 or 14)
TOUR MATCHES (one day)
Downpatrick: Ireland v South Africa
Southampton or Taunton: Hampshire or Somerset v Sri Lankans
(Gloucestershire v Sri Lankans if both counties in Benson and Hedges final)
WOMEN'S MATCH (one day)
Scarborough: England v Australia
(first one-day international)

13-TETLEY BITTER TROPHY (one day)
Scarborough: Tim Rice's XI v Yorkshire

14-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Sussex
Lytham: Lancashire v Worcestershire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Northamptonshire
VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days)
Chester-le-Street: Durham v South Africans
Taunton: Somerset v Sri Lankans
AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Hampshire
OTHER MATCH (one day)
Scarborough: Heartaches XI v Invitation XI

15-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Southend: Essex v Kent
Guildford: Surrey v Middlesex
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Hampshire
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire

18-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Sussex
Leicester: Leicestershire v Northamptonshire
VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days)
* Derby: Derbyshire v South Africans
*§ Cardiff: Glamorgan v Sri Lankans
TOUR MATCH (one day)
§ Chester-le-Street: Durham v Australia A

19-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Southend: Essex v Kent
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire
Taunton: Somerset v Hampshire
Guildford: Surrey v Middlesex
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire
TOUR MATCH (one day)
§ Chester-le-Street: Durham v Australia A

20-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† Old Trafford: Lancashire v Worcestershire
† Hove: Sussex v Middlesex

21-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Essex
TOUR MATCH (three days)
§ Canterbury: Kent v Australia A

22-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Colwyn Bay: Glamorgan v Lancashire
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Surrey
Portsmouth: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire
Lord's: Middlesex v Yorkshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Derbyshire
Taunton: Somerset v Durham
TOUR MATCH (one day)
§ Worcester: Worcestershire v Sri Lankans

23-FOURTH CORNHILL TEST MATCH
* TRENT BRIDGE: ENGLAND v S AFRICA
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Essex

24-VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES (four days)
* Leicester: Leicestershire v Sri Lankans
TOUR MATCH (three days)
*§ Hove: Sussex v Australia A

26-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Colwyn Bay: Glamorgan v Lancashire
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Surrey
Portsmouth: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire
Lord's: Middlesex v Yorkshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Derbyshire
Taunton: Somerset v Durham

28-NATWEST TROPHY, quarter-finals

29-TOUR MATCH (one day)
Chelmsford or Worcester: Essex or Worcestershire v South Africans
(Derbyshire v South Africans if both counties in NatWest quarter-finals)

30-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Derby: Derbyshire v Kent
Southampton: Hampshire v Durham
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Leicestershire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire
* The Oval: Surrey v Sussex
* Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Glamorgan
Worcester: Worcestershire v Yorkshire
TOUR MATCH (three days)
§ Taunton: Somerset v Australia A
NATWEST UNDER-19 MATCH
§ Harrogate: England v Pakistan
(first one-day international)

31-VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES
* Chelmsford: Essex v South Africans (three days)
* Lord's: Middlesex v Sri Lankans (four days)

AUGUST

1-NATWEST UNDER-19 MATCH
§ Chester-le-Street: England v Pakistan
(second one-day international)

2-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Kent
Southampton: Hampshire v Durham
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Leicestershire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Yorkshire

3-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† The Oval: Surrey v Sussex
† Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Glamorgan
NATWEST UNDER-19 MATCH
§ Chester-le-Street: England v Pakistan
(third one-day international)

5-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Chelmsford: Essex v Glamorgan
Canterbury: Kent v Hampshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Gloucestershire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Somerset
TBC: Middlesex v Warwickshire
Eastbourne: Sussex v Durham
Kidderminster: Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire
AXA LIFE LEAGUE
The Oval: Surrey v Derbyshire
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Lakenham: ECB XI v Sri Lankans

6-FIFTH CORNHILL TEST MATCH
* HEADINGLEY: ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* The Oval: Surrey v Derbyshire

7-TOUR MATCH (one day)
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Sri Lankans

9-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Chelmsford: Essex v Glamorgan
Canterbury: Kent v Hampshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Gloucestershire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Somerset
TBC: Middlesex v Warwickshire
Eastbourne: Sussex v Durham
Worcester: Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Milton Keynes (Campbell Park): Northamptonshire v Sri Lankans

11-NATWEST TROPHY
First semi-final
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Canterbury or Old Trafford: Kent or Lancashire v Sri Lankans
(Warwickshire v Sri Lankans if both counties in NatWest semi-finals)

12-NATWEST TROPHY
Second semi-final
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Old Trafford or Headingley: First Class Counties XI v South Africans

14-TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT (one day)
TRENT BRIDGE: S AFRICA v SRI LANKA
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Derby: Derbyshire v Worcestershire
* Chester-le-Street: Durham v Glamorgan
* Bristol: Gloucestershire v Kent
* Portsmouth: Hampshire v Essex
* Taunton: Somerset v Northamptonshire
* Hove: Sussex v Middlesex
* Headingley: Yorkshire v Lancashire
NATWEST UNDER-19 MATCH (four days)
*§ Worcester: England v Pakistan
(first Test)

16-TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT (one day)
LORD'S: ENGLAND v SRI LANKA

17 (or 18)-AON TROPHY (one day)
Semi-finals

18-TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT (one day)
EDGBASTON: ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA

19-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Lancashire
Colchester: Essex v Gloucestershire
Canterbury: Kent v Worcestershire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Middlesex
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Warwickshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Surrey
Taunton: Somerset v Derbyshire

20-TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT (one day)
LORD'S: FINAL
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Cardiff: Glamorgan v Yorkshire

22-VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES (three days)
* Southampton: Hampshire v Sri Lankans

23-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Lancashire
Colchester: Essex v Gloucestershire
Canterbury: Kent v Worcestershire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Sussex
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Warwickshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Surrey
Taunton: Somerset v Derbyshire

24-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† Headingley: Yorkshire v Lancashire

25-NATWEST UNDER-19 MATCH (four days)
§ Taunton: England v Pakistan
(second Test)
AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† Bristol: Gloucestershire v Somerset

26-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Derby: Derbyshire v Durham
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Kent
TBC: Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire
Hove: Sussex v Hampshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Warwickshire
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Essex

27-CORNHILL TEST MATCH
* THE OVAL: ENGLAND v SRI LANKA
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Bristol: Gloucestershire v Somerset

30-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Hove: Sussex v Glamorgan
AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Durham
Southampton: Hampshire v Middlesex
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Kent
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Worcestershire
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Essex

31-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Southampton: Hampshire v Middlesex
NATWEST UNDER-19 MATCH (four days)
§ Chelmsford: England v Pakistan
(third Test)

SEPTEMBER

1-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Derbyshire
Taunton: Somerset v Worcestershire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Leicestershire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Surrey

3-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
† Hove: Sussex v Glamorgan

5-NATWEST TROPHY
LORD'S: FINAL

6-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Glamorgan
Chelmsford: Essex v Nottinghamshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Hampshire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Middlesex
Taunton: Somerset v Worcestershire
The Oval: Surrey v Kent
Hove: Sussex v Yorkshire
(matches involving NatWest finalists to be played on September 8)

7-AON TROPHY (one day)
Final

9-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Surrey
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Derbyshire
Canterbury: Kent v Somerset
Leicester: Leicestershire v Essex
Lord's: Middlesex v Gloucestershire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Sussex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Hampshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

13-AXA LIFE LEAGUE
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Surrey
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Derbyshire
Canterbury: Kent v Somerset
Leicester: Leicestershire v Essex
Lord's: Middlesex v Gloucestershire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Sussex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Hampshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

17-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP
* Derby: Derbyshire v Middlesex
* Chelmsford: Essex v Northamptonshire
* Cardiff: Glamorgan v Somerset
* Old Trafford: Lancashire v Hampshire
* Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Gloucestershire
* The Oval: Surrey v Leicestershire
* Hove: Sussex v Yorkshire
* Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Kent
* Worcester: Worcestershire v Durham

** includes Sunday play*
† day-night match
§ provisional
TBC *venue to be confirmed*

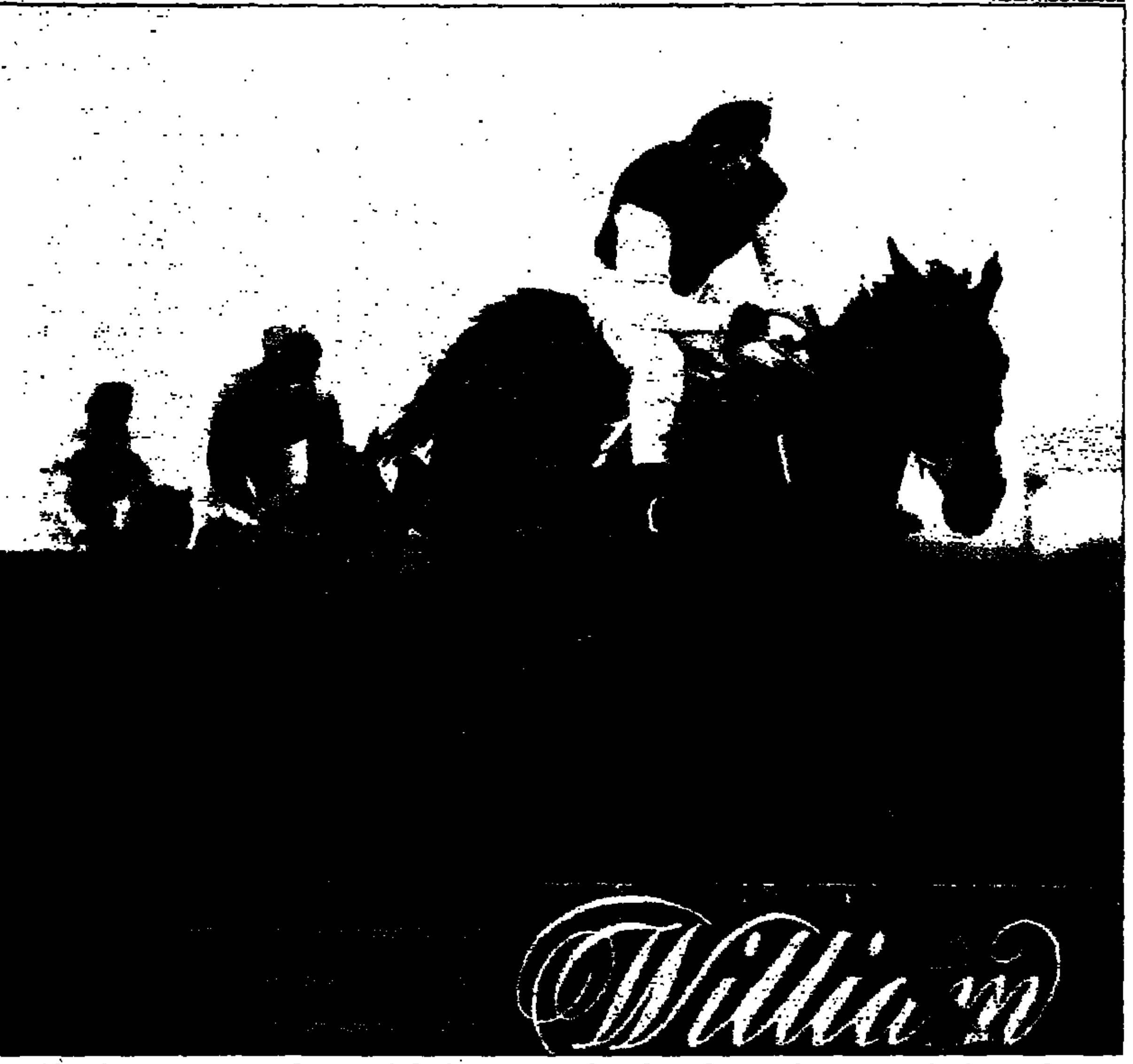
هكذا من الأصل

RACING: FORSTER LOOKS TO VETERAN CHASER FOR CHANGE OF FORTUNE

Dublin Flyer faces testing time

By Chris McGrath

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Dublin Flyer attempts to make amends for his disappointing Cheltenham performance at Newbury today

NOBODY is better versed in the caprice of National Hunt racing than Captain Tim Forster. True, his pessimistic instincts have been confounded by some of the most cherished chasers of recent years, none more so than Dublin Flyer. The past week, however, has seemed to vindicate the trainer's most despondent expectations — providing an unnerving context for the critical test faced by the same horse at Newbury today.

It would take a return to Dublin Flyer's exhilarating best in the Jacky Upton Handicap Chase to redeem even a fraction of the agony Forster endured at Chepstow on Wednesday. Approaching the second-last fence, Donjuan Collonges was imposing his noble physique just as anticipated by those who had made him hot favourite. But he crumpled on landing, and never rose again.

The horse's broken back placed in humbling perspective any irritation Forster felt when another favourite, Edmond, fell at the final hurdle earlier on the same card. It even belittled the chastening spectacle of Martha's Son, his Queen Mother Champion Chase winner, breaking down at Huntingdon the previous day. "I don't know what I've done wrong," an ashen Forster said. He will be fretful indeed at Newbury today, hoping that his expiation is complete.

For Dublin Flyer was simply not himself when reappearing at his beloved Cheltenham 13 days ago. Never dominating his field as he can, he eventually completed the Murphy's Gold Cup tailed off last. Any such disappointment today, when his rivals again include Challenger Du Luc, will surely see Forster reviving a suggestion that it could be time to draw stumps with Dublin Flyer.

John Sumner, his owner, said yesterday: "We've no idea what was wrong. Brendan [Powell] said he felt unsound, but he came in sound enough, while a couple of people said that he was carrying his tail in a funny way — though we'd looked at his back on the Tuesday prior to the race. We don't want to keep him going if he's just trailing in, so we must hope for the best tomorrow."

Suny Bay, the favourite, is a definite runner in tomorrow's Hennessy Gold Cup, Charlie Brooks having found the Newbury turf suitably yielding when walking the course yesterday. But his relief matches the dismay of supporters of Djeddah, François Doumen stressing that he is "far better on good ground".

Another overseas challenger is Time For A Run, memorable winner of the Coral Cup at the 1994 Cheltenham Festival. Edward O'Grady, his trainer, acknowledges that this season will probably be the horse's "last hurrah" — but professes himself only moderately pleased by his prep-race over an inadequate distance at Naas. "One can only hope that he'd improve for the run and that the trip might help," O'Grady said.

Time For A Run carries the colours of J P McManus, who is set for a stimulating weekend. Tomorrow's card also features the return to timber of Finnegan's Hollow, who has been living up to his sire's name (Bulldozer) over fences, while Istabraq defends his status as Champion Hurdle favourite at Fairyhouse on Sunday.

The reigning champion, Make A Stand, last season used the springboard of the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury. It will again be subject to intense scrutiny in the Festival build-up, after the sponsor's announcement yesterday that £25,000 has been pumped into two "stepping stones" — the Tote Lanzarote Hurdle at Kempton on January 24 and a Tote Gold Trophy Trial at Ayr the following week.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Raffles Rooster
(3.00 Newbury)

Raffles Rooster, an improved performer on the Flat this summer, ran particularly well behind the well-regarded Easy Feelin at Worcester recently and looks well treated for his handicap hurdle debut.

NB: Challenger Du Luc
(2.30 Newbury)

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.00 Rainwatch
1.30 Strong Chairman
2.00 'IGGINS (nap)
2.30 Callisoe Bay
3.00 Magic Combination
3.30 Old Rouvel

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.30 YAHMI.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.00 FRESHMANS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £3,912: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

101	U3221	SLIEMA CREEK 48 (D,S) (J Joseph) P Hobbs 11-3	L Harvey	103
102	408	ASPECTO LAD 17 (V) (R Matthews) D Williams 10-12	Mr S Durack (5)	85
103		BORAZON (M Archer & Miss J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Davies 10-12	C Llewellyn	–
104	P	CHEROKEE FLIGHT 9 (Silver Knight Exhibitions Ltd) S Mellor 10-12	C Webb (5)	–
105		HADIDI 130F (Stamford Bridge Partnership) C Mann 10-12	R Dunwoody	–
106		JALB 148F (Family & Friends) P Murphy 10-12	R Farrant	–
107		JUNCTION CITY 168F (P Mellon) I Balding 10-12	G Bradley	–
108	3	KILBRIDE LAD 12 (P Wetzel) D Nicholson 10-12	R Johnson	106
109		MARADI 24F (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 10-12	L Aspell (3)	–
110		RAINWATCH 44F (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 10-12	A P McCoy	–
111		REGGIE BUCK 35F (L Pipe) R O'Sullivan 10-12	P Holley	–
112		THE NEGOTIATOR 25F (F Sainsbury) M Heaton-Ellis 10-12	B Powell	–
113		TWIN TIME 28F (Dajam Ltd) J King 10-7	T J Murphy	–
114		TYROLEAN DANCER 127F (Exors of Ms P Birchall) A Chamberlain 10-7	W McFarland	–

BETTING: 6-4 Rainwatch, 9-4 Kilbride Lad, 10-1 Sliema Creek, Maradi, 12-1 Borazon, 16-1 Hadidi, Jalb, Junction City, 25-1 others.

1996: WHITE SEA 10-7 C F Swan (7-1) M Pipe 21 ran

FORM FOCUS Sliema Creek beat Prairie Minstrel 12l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, soft). Aspecto Lad 46l 6th of 8 to Supply And Demand in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Cherokee Flight pulled up in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft). Hadidi, fair staying maiden on Flat for D Morley, sold 24,000gns at Doncaster August Sales. Jalb, fair maiden at 1m on Flat when trained by A Stewart. Junction City, Forty Miner colt, half-brother to three winners in the US, including a grade 1 winner. Only one run on Flat, when tailed off in Sandown maiden. Kilbride Lad 16l 3rd of 10 to The French Furze in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Maradi, fair handicapper over 1½m on Flat. Rainwatch, very useful over 1¾m+ on Flat when trained by J Dunlop, sold 60,000gns last month. Reggie Buck, signs of ability in three runs on Flat when trained by L Cumani. The Negotiator, some ability at 1m on Flat. Twin Time, modest miler on Flat.

KILBRIDE LAD can put Cheltenham experience to good use

1.30 OXFORDSHIRE NOVICES CHASE (£4,601. 3m) (4 runners)

201	12242-1	YAHMI 14 (D,G) (W Stott) J Old 7-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	118
202	00/2-62	JALCANTO 20 (F) (A Price) R Juckes 7-11-3	P Holley	96
203	11111-2	STRONG CHAIRMAN 14 (D,F,G) (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholls 6-11-3	T J Murphy	115
204	30/234-	TRIPLE WITCHING 280 (D,G,S) (W Robins) N Henderson 11-11-3	R Dunwoody	116

BETTING: 11-10 Strong Chairman, 6-4 Yahmi, 4-1 Triple Witching, 50-1 Jalcanto.

1996: HATCHAM BOY 6-11-3 A Maguire (8-1) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Yahmi beat Strong Chairman (7lb better off) 1l in 6-runner novice chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good). Jalcanto 4l 2nd of 8 to Lovable Outlaw in novice chase at Uttoxeter (3m, soft); previously 42l 6th of 7 to Mr Moriarty in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good). Triple Witching beaten a distance 4th of 6 to Berude Not To in novice chase at Kempton (3m, good to soft); previously 17l 3rd of 7 to Cyborgo in novice chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft).

STRONG CHAIRMAN is weighted to reverse Cheltenham form with Yahmi

2.00 BOBBY NIXON BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£5,493: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

301	24/P40-	CLIFTON BEAT 196F (CD,G,S) (D O'Connor) P Hobbs 6-12-0	R Dunwoody	149
302	F242-64	MISTER RM 7 (D,F,G,S) (F Mills & W Mills) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-9	C Llewellyn	149
303	620111-	STORMYFAIRWEATHER 200 (D,F,S) N Henderson 5-10-9	M A Fitzgerald	127
304	0/11-11	NAHRAWALI 27 (D,F,G) (C Sparrowhawk) G L Moore 6-10-8	A P McCoy	150
305	431311-	TICKERTY'S GIFT 251 (D,F,S) (Pennine Partners) G L Moore 7-10-7	D Gallagher	126
306	3141-	RIPARIUS 195 (D,F,G) (Mrs D Blackburn) P R Webber 6-10-3	J A McCarthy	146
307	P-44154	CRANDON BOULEVARD 13 (D,F,G) (Ms S Moods) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-0	R Farrant	149
308	/100-1	'IGGINS 14 (D,S) (Pell Mell Partners) J Gifford 7-10-0	P Hide	145
309	-FF1321	NOBLE COLOURS 14 (D,F,G) (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 4-10-0	R Johnson	141

Long handicap: 'Iggins 9-12, Noble Colours 9-9

BETTING: 3-1 Nahrawali, 4-1 'Iggins, 5-1 Stormyfairweather, 8-1 Tickerty's Gift, Crandon Boulevard, Noble Colours, 10-1 Clifton Beat, Riparius, 12-1 Mister Rm

1996: MISTER MOROSE 6-11-4 C Llewellyn (14-1) N Twiston-Davies 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Clifton Beat 18l 10th of 11 to Shadow Leader in grade II hurdle at Ayr (2m, good); previously 6½l 4th of 18 to Shankar in handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good). Mister Rm 13l 4th of 5 to Eta Agapi Mou in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). Stormyfairweather beat Rythm Rock 6l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). Nahrawali completed four-timer when beating Palamon 4l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). Tickerty's Gift beat Marius 2½l in 3-runner handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to firm). Riparius beat Our Robert 2½l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good). Crandon Boulevard 9½l 4th of 5 to Highly Reputable in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). 'Iggins beat Seymourswift 1l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, good to soft). Noble Colours beat Come On Penny 13l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good).

NAHRAWALI can extend winning sequence at expense of 'Iggins

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 (13143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.30 JACKY UPTON HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,916: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

401	/S11P-0	DUBLIN FLYER 13 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Sumner) T Forster 11-12-0	B Powell	160
402	2302-13	GALES CAVALIER 24 (G,S) (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 9-11-5	R Dunwoody	192
403	F6154-2	CHALLENGER DU LUC 13 (B,D,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 7-10-13	A P McCoy	190
404	U0025-1	CALLISOE BAY 20 (F,G,S) (R Waters) D Sherwood 8-10-0	J A McCarthy	187
405	5556-P2	STRONG MEDICINE 17 (CD,F,G,S) (Dr D Silk) K Bailey 10-10-0	C O'Dwyer	172

Long handicap: Callisoe Bay 9-13, Strong Medicine 8-12

BETTING: 11-8 Challenger Du Luc, 3-1 Callisoe Bay, 9-2 Dublin Flyer, 5-1 Gales Cavalier, 10-1 Strong Medicine

1996: GOLDEN SPINNER 9-11-0 M A Fitzgerald (4-1) N Henderson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Gales Cavalier beaten a distance 3rd of 6 to Viking Flagship in grade II handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Mr Mulligan 2l in 5-runner grade II handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good). Challenger Du Luc 3l 2nd of 9 to Senor El Betrutti in grade III handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good) with Dublin Flyer (4lb better off) 44l 7th. Callisoe Bay beat The Last Fling 6l in 7-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, soft). Strong Medicine 1¼l 2nd of 3 to Super Tactics in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm).

CALLISOE BAY can take advantage of lenient mark. Challenger Du Luc the danger

3.00 SHOPPING ARCADE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,758. 2m 5f) (10 runners)

501	210443-	COURT MASTER 180 (S) (Mrs T Lewis) R Buckler 9-12-0	J Mcdermott (10)	–
502	36-2	RAFFLES ROOSTER 16 (M Lealham) A Newcombe 5-11-0	R Thornton	102
503	830-	MAGIC COMBINATION 20F (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 4-10-7	L Aspell	100
504	0002-31	WELSH SILK 9 (G) (Mrs D Blackshaw) D Gandolfo 5-10-7 (6ex)	Sophie Mitchell (3)	114
505	254-106	GAMAY 15 (G,S) (J Boulter) N Mitchell 7-10-6	A Bates	98
506	0/30C0-	DANNICUS 275 (C Rashbrook) N Babbage 6-10-4	G Hogan	101
507	4001-65	BRASSIS HILL 27 (G) (Sleeping Partnership) R Rowe 6-10-4	A Garrity (8)	98
508	005-5	FREELINE FONTAINE 17 (I Stoat) N Henderson 5-10-3	T Hagger (8)	104
509	0P625-4	STORMY SESSION 13 (C Haycock) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-2	J Goldstein (6)	118
510	432/3P/	BARELY BLACK 693 (S) (J Cantrill) N Babbage 9-10-0	M Keighley (5)	–

BETTING: 11-4 Welsh Silk, 7-2 Raffles Rooster, 9-2 Magic Combination, 7-1 Freeline Fontaine, 8-1 Gamay, 10-1 Court Master, 12-1 Brassis Hill, 14-1 others

1996: ALLOW 5-10-10 D J Kavanagh (6-1) B Llewellyn 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Court Master 8¼l 3rd of 12 to Mr Playfull in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 3f 110yd, good); previously 36l 4th of 15 to Lay It Off in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft). Raffles Rooster 9l 2nd of 22 to Easy Feelin in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good). Magic Combination 41l 11th of 20 to Font Romeu in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft); previously 8l 3rd of 10 to Three Farthings in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, soft). Welsh Silk beat Kennett Square 7l in 10-runner novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good); previously 10l 3rd of 12 to Relative Chance in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Gamay 16l 6th of 10 to Decyborg in novice hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good). Dannicus 54l 10th of 14 to Northern Singer in novice handicap chase at Taunton (2m 110yd, good to soft). Brassis Hill 28l 5th of 8 to Punkah in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good); previously 15l 6th of 12 to Vitaman in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good) with Gamay (4lb better off) 16l 7th. Freeline Fontaine 19l 5th of 9 to Wise King in novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good); previously 13l 5th of 10 to Maid For Adventure in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good). Stormy Session 40l last of 4 to Torch Vert in novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good); previously 10l 5th of 11 to Doualago in handicap hurdle at Stratford (3m 3f, good to firm). Barely Black pulled up in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, heavy); previously 17l 3rd of 15 to Harwell Lad in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft).

RAFFLES ROOSTER has good chance on promising Worcester reappearance

3.30 SONNING NOVICES HURDLE (£3,649. 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

601	15	THE FULL MONTY 20 (G) (Nutty Partnership) C Brooks 5-11-5	G Bradley	114
602	5	DUTCH 11 (Maylar Partnership) G Enright 5-11-0	Mr S Durack (5)	–
603	6-501	ESPERANZA IV 72 (D,G) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 5-11-0	P Henley (3)	100
604	/253-02	JET BOYS 19 (Jet Stationery Company Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0	R Farrant	106
605		OLD ROUVEL 55F (Mrs R Cowell) D Murray Smith 6-11-0	D Gallagher	–
606	5/0P/2-	RIOT LEADER 286 (Riot Partnership) T George 7-11-0	R Johnson	104
607		WHAT'S THE BUZZ (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 6-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	–
608	0/P6-	RED RIVER 267 (Mrs J Melbourne) C Drewe 6-10-9	R Thornton (3)	80

BETTING: 9-4 Old Rouvel, 4-1 Esperanza IV, 9-2 The Full Monty, Jet Boys, 5-1 What's The Buzz, 10-1 others.

1996: YAHMI 6-11-0 J Osborne (5-2) J Old 16 ran

FORM FOCUS The Full Monty 7¾l 5th of 11 to Denes in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good); previously beat Hurricane Jane 6l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good). Dutch 60l last of 5 to Fill The Bill in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft). Esperanza IV beat Parrafyn 9l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (3m, good). Jet Boys 4l 2nd of 12 to Relative Chance in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Old Rouvel, smart stayer on the Flat, beaten neck in Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot. Riot Leader 11l 2nd of 12 to Friendship in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good). Red River 36l 6th of 9 to Konvekta Queen in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft).

JET BOYS best of those with experience. Old Rouvel interesting Flat recruit

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Sherwood	18	68	26.5	T Murphy	3	11	27.3
J King	5	20	25.0	R Dunwoody	26	114	22.8
D Nicholson	26	109	23.9	P Holley	12	64	18.8
N Henderson	19	103	18.4	C Llewellyn	16	110	14.5
J Old	6	34	17.6	R Farrant	3	21	14.3
M Pipe	16	92	17.4	M A Fitzgerald	11	106	10.4

☐ Space Trucker, the Irish-trained Champion Hurdle third who unseated Jamie Osborne on his chasing debut at Cheltenham earlier this month, returns to action in Britain on Saturday. His trainer, Jessica Harrington, has a choice of novice chases at either Haydock or Warwick for the six-year-old and will make a decision, based on the ground, early today.

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Bid for RaceTech

Members of the Racecourse Association yesterday voted in favour of a proposal to take over ownership of RaceTech from the British Horseracing Board (BHB). The RCA's offer will be considered at a BHB board meeting a week today.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Taunton

Going: good

1.25 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Gutteridge (T J Murphy, 2-1 fav); 2, Northern Drums (9-2); 3, Welton Arsenal (9-1). 10 ran. NR: Perfect Pal. 1¼l, 15l. P Evans. Tote: £2.80; £1.20, £1.10, £2.70. DF: £5.50. Trio: £33.10. CSF: £10.98. Tricast: £60.81.

1.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Circle Of Magic (A P McCoy, 2-5 fav); 2, Digital Option (50-1); 3, Payaso (20-1). 12 ran. 3½l, nk. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £4.90, £3.40. DF: £29.00. Trio: £22.90. CSF: £47.26.

2.25 (2m 3f ch) 1, Jefferies (C Llewellyn, 11-2); 2, Sounds Like Fun (11-2); 3, Millcroft Riviera (10-1). Thursday Night 9-4 fav. 14 ran. 2l, ¾l. J Old. Tote: £6.00; £2.30, £2.70, £2.90. DF: £19.00. Trio: £69.10. CSF: £32.20.

2.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Atlantic Mist (D Salter, 25-1); 2, Fresh Fruit Daily (15-2); 3, Strong Choice (10-1). Serendipity 2-1 fav. 13 ran. 1¾l, 2½l. B Millman. Tote: £33.40; £3.90, £1.70, £4.10. DF: £355.90. Trio: not won. CSF: £183.80.

3.25 (3m ch) 1, Equity Player (C Llewellyn, 11-1); 2, Mammy's Choice (2-1 fav); 3, Space Cappa (20-1). 8 ran. NR: Steeple Jack. ¾l, sh hd. R Curtis. Tote: £18.00; £3.40, £1.30, £5.50. DF: £26.40. Trio: £69.10. CSF: £32.34. Tricast: £409.30.

3.55 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Frontier Flight (O Pears, 4-1); 2, The Minder (11-1); 3, Game Dilemma (10-1). Sam Rockett 6-4 fav. 8 ran. 3l, 5l. Miss L Siddall. Tote: £3.50; £1.10, £2.60, £3.40. DF: £46.30. CSF: £45.50. Tricast: £292.49.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £16,587.30 carried forward to Newbury today).

Placepot: £205.20. Quadpot: £181.50.

Uttoxeter

Going: good, good to soft in places

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, Virtuoso (R Dunwoody, 7-2); 2, Kingdom Emperor (9-1); 3, Lenrytak (11-4). Lotea 5-2 fav. 16 ran. 4l, 25l. C Mann. Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £2.10, £1.40. DF: £10.60. Trio: £7.30. CSF: £30.23.

1.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, Spring Gale (J McCarthy, 5-2 fav); 2, Jymjam Johnny (5-1); 3, Sail By The Stars (15-2). 6 ran. Hd, 1¼l. O Sherwood. Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £2.20. DF: £10.40. CSF: £14.03.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, Northern Nation (M A Fitzgerald, 20-1); 2, Galloping Guns (9-1); 3, Evezio Rufo (4-1). Va Utu 10-11 fav. 11 ran. NR: King Curan. 19l, 6l. W Clay. Tote: £15.90; £2.40, £1.70, £2.10. DF: £60.80. Trio: £115.90. CSF: £177.41. Tricast: £809.99.

2.15 (2m 7f ch) 1, Strath Royal (M Brennan, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Rectory Garden (9-4 jt-fav); 3, General Pongo (8-1). 5 ran. 9l, 3l. O Brennan. Tote: £3.10; £1.60, £1.10. DF: £2.20. CSF: £7.57.

2.45 (2m hdle) 1, Fartadex V (C Maude, 4-1); 2, Lord Richfield (7-1); 3, Double Star (14-1). Meralinga (4th) 5-4 fav. 13 ran. 1¼l, 9l. M Pipe. Tote: £6.20; £2.10, £2.10, £3.20. DF: £33.60. Trio: £56.80. CSF: £30.01.

3.15 (2m ch) 1, Listen Timmy (S Wynne, 2-7 fav); 2, Tejano Gold (7-2); 3, Astral Invasion (16-1). 4 ran. 12l, 24l. S Brookshaw. Tote: £1.30. DF: £1.50. CSF: £1.72.

3.45 (2m hdle) 1, Saint Ciel (A Maguire, 15-8 fav); 2, Diego (15-2); 3, Needwood Poppy (40-1). 8 ran. 6l, 3l. F Jordan. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £1.50, £6.80. DF: £5.80. CSF: £15.75. Tricast: £389.55.

Placepot: £73.90. Quadpot: £15.50.

Carlisle

Going: good

1.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Irish Wildcard (E Callaghan, 13-2); 2, Boyzontoowa (9-4 fav); 3, Run For The Mill (6-1). 13 ran. NR: Spring Loaded. 12l, 3l. J Howard Johnson. Tote: £7.50; £2.40, £1.90, £2.20. DF: £22.40. Trio: £35.50. CSF: £20.86. Tricast: £99.96.

1.35 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Jay'm (B Grattan, 33-1); 2, Shanavogh (2-1 fav); 3, Celtic Giant (5-2). 12 ran. 4l, 7l. P Beaumont. Tote: £50.30; £8.20, £1.90, £2.10. DF: £248.00. Trio: £212.80. CSF: £90.30.

2.05 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Ardent Scout (Richard Guest, 14-1); 2, Jowood (50-1); 3, Judicious Norman (14-1). No Finer Man 10-11 fav. 15 ran. 3l, 4l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £10.20; £2.20, £5.30, £3.90. DF: £182.40. Trio: £289.70. CSF: £514.72.

2.35 (3m ch) 1, Son Of Iris (P Niven, 5-1); 2, Better Times Ahead (12-1); 3, Coverdale Lane (11-4 fav). 10 ran. Nk, 6l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £4.10; £2.10, £3.50, £1.90. DF: £33.10. Trio: £65.40. CSF: £55.02. Tricast: £181.95.

3.05 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Out On A Promise (R Supple, 10-11 fav); 2, Talathath (5-1); 3, Apollo's Daughter (10-1). 5 ran. ¾l, 4l. L Lungo. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.40. DF: £4.10. CSF: £5.50.

3.35 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Bold Classic (Mr C Storey, 10-1); 2, Reach The Clouds (7-1); 3, Palace Of Gold (7-2 fav). 12 ran. 1l, 11l. J Adam. Tote: £17.40; £5.50, £3.20, £2.50. DF: £74.40. Trio: £56.40. CSF: £71.59. Tricast: £271.03.

Placepot: £314.00. Quadpot: £260.60.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

1.20 Once More For Luck. 1.50 Forest Ivory. 2.20 Country Minstrel. 2.50 Even Blue. 3.20 The Bird O'Donnell. 3.50 Kaladross.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.20 MNC ADVERTISING AGENCY SELLING HURDLE
(£2,253: 2m 1f) (11 runners)

1	562-	ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 34F (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-5	P Niven	113
2	0-40	ADMIRAL'S GUEST 15 W Clay 5-10-12	G Tormey	62
3	P-P	ALBERT THE LION 10 J Neville 5-10-12	T Dascombe	–
4		FORZAIR 11F J J O'Neill 5-10-12	P Carberry	–
5	P-03	HAYDOWN 10 M R Bosley 5-10-12	Mr P Phillips (7)	66
6	P/	JAMAICA BRIDGE 60F Mrs A Naughton 7-10-12	J Supple	–
7		KENILWORTH DANCER 11F (B) E Cumberlege 4-10-12	Gary Lyons	–
8	0	SINGLE MAN 14F (V) B Baugh 4-10-12	S Wynne	–
9	4203	THOMAS CROWN 9 (V) N R Bosley 5-10-12	I Lawrence	89
10	0P	QUALITAIR BEAUTY 21 Miss L Siddall 4-10-7	A Thornton	–
11	604	SERAPE 56 M Pipe 4-10-7	D Thomas (7)	58

10-11 Once More For Luck, 9-2 Forzair, 6-1 Thomas Crown, 6-1 Haydown, 10-1 Admiral's Guest, 12-1 Serape, 33-1 Single Man, Qualitair Beauty, 50-1 others.

1.50 MALISE NICOLSON MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£3,566: 3m 110yd) (6)

1	1-F1	FOREST IVORY 10 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-5	A Maguire	140
2	3P-	AH SHUSH 349 N Chance 9-10-12	DOUBTFUL	–
3	1-UP	BOURBON COUNTY 8 (V,D,G) Miss S Wilton 7-10-12	T Eley	–
4	F1-0	CASH FLOW 12 (D,S) J J O'Neill 6-10-12	P Carberry	–
5	0P-	WEEKEND WORKER 293P T Kersey 6-10-12	Guy Lewis (3)	–
6	331-	SELATAN 251 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 5-10-10	G Upton	–

2-7 Forest Ivory, 7-2 Selatan, 10-1 Cash Flow, 33-1 Bourbon County, 66-1 Weekend Worker.

2.20 MNC IS 20 HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,801: 2m 1f) (8)

1	145-	MEG'S MEMORY 117F (S) A Streeter 4-11-10	T Eley	98
2	353-	RIVERBANK ROSE 183 (G) W Clay 6-11-8	G Tormey	100
3	0F-0	UNITED FRONT 11 (D,S) J Neville 5-11-7	A Thornton	–
4	230-	HO-JOE 638 (D,G,S) C Vardey 7-11-7	V Slattery	–
5	20-0	BRUMON 15 (V,S) M Mullineaux 6-11-5	S Wynne	99
6	111-	CARACOL 223 (CD,G,S) J Neville 6-11-3	T Dascombe	95
7	25-0	GLOWING PATH 13 (D,F,S) R Hodges 7-11-2	J Harris (7)	104
8	0-32	COUNTRY MINSTREL 14 S Dow 6-11-1	C Rae (7)	105

9-4 Caracol, 4-1 Country Minstrel, 5-1 Riverbank Rose, 7-1 Brumon, Glowing Path, 8-1 Meg's Memory, 10-1 United Front, 20-1 Ho-Joe.

2.50 MORRIS NICHOLSON CARTWRIGHT HANDICAP CHASE (£4,429: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	F11-	TEINEIN 253 (D,G,S) T Forster 6-12-0	A Thornton	129
2	1-42	MASTER DRUM 13 (D,F,G,S) M Wilkinson 8-11-13	W Marston	144
3	153-	THE CARRIG RUA 321 (D,G,S) J Neville 7-11-10	A Maguire	132
4	254-	EVEN BLUE 290 (CD,S) Mrs C Bluck 9-11-2	S Wynne	137
5	P2/3	CLARE MAN 12 (F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-9	C Maude	140
6	44-5	SISTER ROSZA 11 (S) Mrs S Lamyman 9-10-5	J Magee (3)	130

9-4 Teinein, 11-4 Master Drum, 9-2 Clare Man, 5-1 The Carrig Rua, 6-1 Even Blue, 10-1 Sister Rosza.

3.20 JPCS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,615: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1	00-4	SENSE OF VALUE 9 (F,S) J Smith 6-11-10	Mr O McPhail (7)	–
2	62-2	THE BIRD O'DONNELL 9 (D,G,S) Mrs A Naughton 11-11-6	J Supple	93
3	22-1	LUKE WARM 10 (S) D Gandolfo 7-11-6 (7ex)	A Maguire	100
4	2/0-	PEPITIST 475F (D,G) M Hammond 6-11-6	D Bentley	–
5	B/P	CHARLAFRIVOLA 8 (F) T Gretton 9-11-5	J R Kavanagh	–
6	353-	DESERT BRAVE 186 Mrs S Smith 7-11-4	R Guest	97
7	P4-0	MARKET MAYHEM 41 J Spearing 7-11-0	D Bridgwater	–
8	0P-2	THE NEXT WALTZ 21 L Lungo 6-11-0	R Supple	92
9	3FP-	FORTRIA ROSIE DAWN 207 Mrs J Williams 7-10-13	S Kelly (7)	80
10	2532	CAN'T SAY 15 J Bradley 6-10-4	S Wynne	105
11	-P0P	SOPHIES DREAM 9 (B) J Bradley 6-10-0	Guy Lewis (3)	–

15-8 Luke Warm, 7-2 The Next Waltz, 6-1 The Bird O'Donnell, 7-1 Desert Brave, 10-1 Can't Say, 12-1 Pepitist, Fortria Rosie Dawn, 20-1 others.

3.50 HANMER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,724: 2m 1f) (13)

1	0,P	ALTHREY CAPTAIN 21 F Lloyd 7-10-12	S McNeill	–
2	0P-	ARKLOW KING 291 P Wegmann 5-10-12	J R Kavanagh	–
3	34-	BOMBADIL 285 Mrs S Lamyman 5-10-12	A Thornton	90
4	422-	BUILDER BOY 232P S Brookshaw 7-10-12	S Wynne	–
5	000-	JUSTJIM 263 T Kersey 5-10-12	S Ryan (5)	47
6	7-4	KALADROSS 21 W Jenks 6-10-12	Gary Lyons	80
7	0-5F	KATSAR 21 M Hammond 5-10-12	R Garritty	–
8	4-3	KING OF THIEVES 20 T Mann 5-10-12	J Magee (3)	–
9	0-P	LINE OF CONQUEST 8 (S) R Hodges 7-10-12	T Dascombe	–
10	40-5	RACKETBALL 16 N Twiston-Davies 4-10-12	C Maude	103
11	6-	RONNIES WEDDING 265P T Lacey 5-10-12	G F Ryan (5)	–
12	255-	WOODFIELD VISION 223 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-12	P Niven	–
13	0	INCEY WINCEY 634 E Owen Jun 5-10-7	R Guest	–

5-1 Woodfield Vision, 7-2 King Of Thieves, 4-1 Racketball, 5-1 Katsar, 6-1 Bombadil, 10-1 Builder Boy, Kaladross, 33-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 16 winners from 51 runners, 31.4%. J Spearing, 3 from 12, 25.0%. D Gandolfo, 7 from 31, 22.6%. M Hammond, 3 from 15, 20.0%. C Mann, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: D Bridgwater, 15 winners from 62 rides, 24.2%. A Maguire, 16 from 66, 24.2%. T Dascombe, 4 from 17, 23.5%. R Garritty, 5 from 29, 17.2%. W Marston, 8 from 50, 16.0%. P Guest, 6 from 51, 11.8%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.10 Mustang. 12.40 Lift The Offer. 1.10 Fast Tempo. 1.40 Father Dan. 2.10 La Petite Fusee. 2.40 Witchfinder. 3.10 Casino Ace. 3.40 Manful.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.10 SCENA HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,466: 7f) (13 runners)

1	4105	PETITE DANSEUSE 14 (D,F,G) D Chapman 3-9-10	D McKeown 10
2	1340	RESIST THE FORCE 97 (C,F) C Cyzer 7-9-9	A Morris 1
3	3521	MOZAMBIQUE 18 (CD) Mrs J Cecil 3-9-5	C Lowther (3) 5
4	6031	TROJAN HERO 7 (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-4 (6ex)	A Culhane 6
5	3305	FEEL NO FEAR 15 W Muir 4-8-13	J Weaver 3
6	0000	MUHANDIS 15 (B,D,F) G L Moore 4-9-10	Candy Morris 9
7	6602	SIZZLING 15 (F) R Hannon 5-8-10	R Ffrench (3) 11
8	403	TURNERS WAY 101 S Dow 3-8-6	S Sanders 7
9	3000	AQUATIC QUEEN 66 (G) C Dwyer 3-8-0	T Williams 2
10	6000	CHIEF'S LADY 15 J S Moore 5-7-10	F Norton 13
11	2642	MUSTANG 10 (B,D) C Thornton 4-7-10	Dale Gibson 8
12	0005	LOGIE PERT LAD 15 J Bridger 5-7-10	P Doe (7) 4
13	000	MILTON ABBOT 22 M Saunders 4-7-10	N Carlisle 12

3-1 Mozambique, 4-1 Trojan Hero, 6-1 Resist The Force, 7-1 Sizzling, Mustang, 12-1 Petite Danseuse, Feel No Fear, Aquatic Queen, 16-1 others.

12.40 LEVY BOARD NOVICE STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,099: 7f) (10)

1	3001	LIFT THE OFFER 10 (C) R Hannon 9-4	P Dobbs (7) 8
2	4600	OUT LIKE MAGIC 7 (F) P Evans 8-13	A McCarthy (7) 5
3	0	BIT OF A LAD 18 R Flower 8-12	J Lowe 7
4	0	SAMMY'S SHUFFLE 15 R Flower 8-12	A Clark 3
5	05	CHI-LIN 10 J Pilch-Heyes 8-7	A Whelan (3) 4
6	00	HOT TOPIC 46 A Kelleway 8-7	M Rimmer 10
7	0	LITTLE EMILY 149 C Brittain 8-7	W Ryan 9
8	5006	NISABA 52 J S Moore 8-7	P P Murphy (3) 2
9	5346	RATIYYA 55 P Howling 8-7	S Sanders 1
10	0200	SPREE ROSE 7 K Cunningham-Brown 8-7	D Biggs 6

8-11 Lift The Offer, 6-1 Ratiyya, 7-1 Nisaba, 8-1 Out Like Magic, 12-1 Little Emily, 14-1 Spree Rose, 25-1 Chi-Lin, 33-1 others.

1.10 SOUTHRIVER TOOLS AND FIXINGS NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £2,765: 5f) (10)

1	1231	CLASSY CLEO 11 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 10-0 (7ex)	A McCarthy (7) 7
2	6241	HAPPY DAYS AGAIN 28 (B,D,F,G) J Wharton 9-4	G Milligan (5) 6
3	2204	CAROL SINGER 11 M Johnston 8-8	D McKeown 9
4	51	SUN DANCING 14 (D) J Berry 8-6	C Lowther (3) 5
5	0300	FAST TEMPO 25 (D,F) B Palling 8-6	S Sanders 10
6	0516	PRIVATE SEAL 42 (D,F) G L Moore 8-1	R Brisland (7) 3
7	5003	BLUE SHADOW 22 R Hannon 7-10	D Wright 1
8	2002	SWANMORE LADY 22 (F) S C Williams 7-10	D Williams (7) 4
9	3000	RED PEPPER 14 P Howling 7-10	N Carlisle 2
10	5554	LITTLE FIZZ 18 B Meehan 7-10	R Ffrench (3) 8

7-2 Swanmore Lady, 4-1 Blue Shadow, 9-2 Happy Days Again, 5-1 Classy Cleo, 8-1 Sun Dancing, Private Seal, 12-1 Carol Singer, 16-1 others.

1.40 SHOWFORCE SELLING STAKES
(£2,214: 1m 2f) (14)

1	5014	FATHER DAN 18 (E,CD,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 8-9-9	J Wilkinson (7) 4
2	0000	HAROLDON 10 (D,F,G) B Palling 8-9-9	S Sanders 11
3	1400	SOLDIER COVE 41J (C,S) D Burchell 7-9-9	S Copp (5) 7
4	6400	STELLAR LINE 8J (D,F) M Polglase 4-9-9	J Weaver 1
5	5435	WITHOUT FRIENDS 3 (F,G,S) J Pilch-Heyes 3-9-5	A Whelan (3) 10
6	3006	CHAIRMANS CHOICE 20 (F) A Jarvis 7-9-4	W Ryan 8
7	0006	ETHBAAT 15 (F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 6-9-4	A Clark 13
8	2000	MAGAZINE GAP 3 (V) Pat Mitchell 4-9-4	Amanda Sanders 9
9	355/	PRAISE BE 184J (D,G) D Chapman 7-9-4	A Culhane 2
10	4	RUDOLPHINE 29J Bob Jones 6-9-4	M Wigham 14
11		TONRIN 25J J Bridger 5-9-4	F Norton 5
12	0440	RUMBUSTIOUS 46 (F,G) R Hannon 3-9-0	R Ffrench (3) 12
13	6050	AL AVA CONSONANT 28 J Bethell 3-8-9	R Winston (5) 3
14		LA LINEA M Pipe 3-8-9	A McGlone 6

7-2 Chairmans Choice, 9-2 La Linea, 5-1 Ethbaat, 6-1 Father Dan, 7-1 Without Friends, 10-1 Haroldon, 12-1 Al Ava Consonant, 14-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 1.20 Kenilworth Dancer, Single Man, Thomas Crown. 1.50 Bourbon County. 3.20 Sophies Dream. Lingfield Park: 12.10 Muhandis, Aquatic Queen. 1.40 Father Dan. 2.40 Oxbane. 3.40 Glide Path.

2.10 CONFERENCE STAGING HANDICAP
(£3,453: 6f) (14)

1	5600	MYRMIDON 150 (S) Mrs L Stubbs 3-10-0	S Whitworth 7
2	9003	JOHNNY STACCATO 62 (D,G,S) R O'Sullivan 3-9-10	S Sanders 11
3	2056	THAT MAN AGAIN 13 (F,G) S C Williams 5-9-10	D Williams (7) 5
4	0515	SPEEDY CLASSIC 13 (CD,F) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9-10	A Clark 3
5	0255	APOLLO RED 61 (CD,F,S) G L Moore 8-9-9	Candy Morris 6
6	0000	URSA MAJOR 43 (CD) A Kelleway 3-9-7	A Whelan (3) 14
7	0002	ROBO MAGIC 15 (CD,F) L Montague Hall 5-9-6	W Ryan 10
8	2430	MARY CORNWALLIS 13 R Cowell 3-9-2	Dale Gibson 1
9	1000	TAKHLID 20 (D,F,S) D Chapman 6-9-2	A Culhane 13
10	0001	RAMSEY HOPE 14 (V,CD,F) C Fairhurst 4-9-1	J Weaver 2
11	3005	LORD SKY 167 (CD,F,S) A Bailey 6-9-1	R Ffrench (3) 8
12	5000	GOLDEN POUND 41 (B,BF,D,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-1	J Wilkinson (7) 12
13	3300	LA PETITE FUSEE 67 (D,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 6-9-0	D Biggs 4
14	0440	SCISSOR RIDGE 27 (CD,F) J Bridger 5-8-13	F Norton 9

4-1 Speedy Classic, 5-1 That Man Again, 7-1 Myrmidon, Golden Pound, 8-1 Robo Magic, Ramsey Hope, 12-1 Apollo Red, Takhlid, 14-1 others.

2.40 SCENA HANDICAP (Div II: £2,466: 7f) (12)

1	6200	ROYAL CARLTON 15 (CD) G L Moore 5-10-0	Candy Morris 10
2	0505	LANCASHIRE LEGEND 15 (CD) S Dow 4-9-9	R Perham 9
3	0062	MUTASAWWAR 7 M Saunders 3-9-3	S Sanders 11
4	2340	CASTLE ASHBY JACK 101 P Howling 3-9-1	A Clark 12
5	0201	CHURCHILL'S SHADOW 10 (CD) B Pearce 3-8-7 (6ex)	C Lowther (3) 2
6	-010	MAC OATES 58 (F) P Hedger 4-8-6	D Biggs 5
7	6600	OXBANE 7 (E) C Dwyer 3-8-5	R Ffrench (3) 3
8	5003	WITCHFINDER 10 (V,BF) Mrs L Stubbs 5-8-4	S Whitworth 1
9	0400	BADRINATH 39 H Collingridge 3-7-10	F Norton 4
10	0002	AEGEAN SOUND 10 (G) K Ivory 3-7-10	J Lowe 7
11	0006	INTO DEBT 10 (E,CD) J Poulton 4-7-10	R Brisland (7) 6
12	6500	TERMON 37 (G) Miss L Perratt 4-7-10	N Carlisle 8

7-2 Witchfinder, 5-1 Churchill's Shadow, 6-1 Mutasawwar, Aegean Sound, 7-1 Lancashire Legend, 8-1 Royal Carlton, 10-1 Mac Oates, 14-1 others.

3.10 CUTTING EDGE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,428: 1m 2f) (8)

1	0040	HIGHBURY LEGEND 10 Bob Jones 9-0	N Day 2
2	0	MISTER TRICKY 32 P Mitchell 9-0	J Weaver 7
3	0562	MYSTAGOGUE 10 (BF) R Hannon 9-0	R Ffrench (3) 4
4	000	PORTHILLY BUOY 52 M Haynes 9-0	M Connolly (7) 8
5		YOUNICO M Johnston 9-0	D McKeown 3
6	U005	ZADA 10 G L Moore 9-0	A Clark 6
7	5443	CASINO ACE 44 P Chapple-Hyam 8-9	S Whitworth 5
8	000	MAYLAN 15 D Hyde 8-9	A McGlone 1

4-7 Casino Ace, 3-1 Younico, 7-1 Mystagogue, 12-1 Zada, 33-1 Highbury Legend, Porthilly Buoy, 50-1 Mister Tricky, Maylan.

3.40 HYPERACTIVE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,608: 1m 4f) (18)

1	0004	PRIVATE AUDIENCE 15 W Musson 4-11-7	R Pooles (7) 6
2	0006	MANFUL 12J (B,CD,F,S) Miss L Perratt 5-11-3	Mrs S Bosley 2
3	-000	GLIDE PATH 14 (V,D,F,G) J Jenkins 8-10-11	Dr M Mannish (3) 3
4	2034	VRENNAN 13 J Fanshawe 3-10-10	Miss S Samworth (5) 7
5	0031	ROYAL ROULETTE 10 (CD) Miss B Sanders 3-10-9 (5ex)	Miss L Sheen (5) 10
6	2500	SHAHIK 22 (S) K Comerford 7-10-6	Dr A Kimber (7) 15
7	4-06	DANKA 13 (V) P Walwyn 3-10-0	Marchioness Blandford (5) 12
8	5140	PHILMIST 22 (B,D,G,S) Miss L Perratt 5-10-0	Miss A Elsey 11
9	5000	SUMMERVILLE WOOD 61 (B,F) P Mooney 3-9-12	Miss L McIntosh (7) 8
10	0000	FOURDANED 7 S Dow 4-9-11	T Cuff 4
11	0003	RASAYEL 25 (C,D,F,G,S) P Evans 7-9-10	A Evans (5) 16
12	4003	DON'T DROP BOMBS 80 (V,CD,F,G) R McGhin 8-9-5	Miss J Feilden 13
13	00-0	DOUBLE ECHO 14 (C,D,F,G,S) J Bethell 9-9-2	Mrs C Williams (5) 14
14	/06/	PILIB 846 J Pearce 6-9-0	Mrs L Pearce 5
15	650-	THUNDEROUS 673 J Bridger 6-9-0	Miss R Illman (5) 17
16	4/21	ANOTHER MONK 3 (C) R Ingram 6-9-0 (5ex)	R Guest (7) 9
17	050/	PRECIOUS WONDER 258J (S) P Butler 8-9-0	Mrs C Poulton (7) 18
18	0050	BURNING COST 86 R Peacock 7-9-0	Mrs C Peacock (5) 1

7-2 Another Monk, 9-2 Royal Roulette, 6-1 Vrennan, 8-1 Rasayel, 10-1 Private Audience, 12-1 Danka, Don't Drop Bombs, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%. C Thornton, 4 from 17, 23.5%. J Berry, 38 from 177, 21.5%. C Fairhurst, 3 from 14, 21.4%. M Johnston, 59 from 302, 19.5%. P Mooney, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: Mr T Cuff, 6 winners from 19 rides, 31.6%. Marchioness Blandford, 3 from 11, 27.3%. G Milligan, 6 from 25, 24.0%. J Weaver, 87 from 403, 21.6%. Mrs S Bosley, 3 from 15, 20.0%. C Lowther, 6 from 30, 20.0%.

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هكذا من الاصل

All Blacks see red at accusations by Ackford of cheating

By Mark Souster

THERE was no denying New Zealand's anger yesterday at accusations that the All Blacks, while a superb team, were also superb cheats. John Hart, their coach, was incensed by allegations that his side deliberately broke the law during the first Test against England at Old Trafford.

Hart dismissed comments by Paul Ackford, the former England international, as contemptuous. Ackford, in effect, said yesterday that New Zealand had got cheating down to a fine art and that "cheats prospered" in Manchester through the use of "cynical, illegal" tactics. He claimed that New Zealand's willingness to concede successive penalties during the first half to prevent a try "was as intentional as it was skilful".

"I am extremely disappointed," Hart said. "This All Black side has attained what it has attained by playing the game the right way."

Mike Banks, the manager, said: "In the two years I have worked with John, at no stage has he expounded the theory that the All Blacks should transgress the laws."

Hart said New Zealand had sufficient confidence in their defensive qualities. "We do not go out to kill the ball, we go out to try to avoid penalties," he said. "There are going to be times when a side goes over, but not intentionally. You are driving with force and you end up over the ball. We do not go out to stop the game intentionally. To be called cheats is a really sad day and is right out of place with what we are trying to achieve."

Returning to more routine matters, Hart confirmed that Zinzan Brooke, their one slight injury doubt, would be fit to face Wales at Wembley tomorrow.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, was reluctant to be drawn into the furore, but said that gamesmanship was part of professional sport and that New Zealand "were adept at exploiting that area".

He also took time to talk to Wayne Erickson, the match referee tomorrow.

Bowring last night invited Simon Weston, the former Welsh Guardsman, to talk to the squad at their Buckinghamshire hotel. Weston was badly injured during the Falklands War and his experiences and his ability to triumph over adversity are attributes from which Bowring hopes and expects his team to draw strength tomorrow.

RUGBY UNION: SOUTH AFRICA DETERMINED TO REGISTER CLEAN SWEEP

England call up Greenstock

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA officials make no bones about their ambition for the final phase of their international season. To make up for disappointments earlier this year, they aim to win all five of their matches in Europe. Already three victories are in the bag, against France and Italy, and England at Twickenham tomorrow represent the fourth hurdle.

"If the national side is winning, every other aspect of our rugby is strengthened," Jake White, their technical assistant, said. "Nick Mallett [the coach] hasn't just taken 15 players and put them on the field, he is selling the whole game throughout the country but development is determined by the amount of games you win. It's critical we go home with five out of five."

White, 33, will become manager of coaching for Gauteng when the tour ends against Scotland on December 6, but he takes great satisfaction at the advance of players such as Krynauw Otto, who previously had been underrated. Otto, the Northern Transvaal lock, has spent much of his Springbok career as back-up but has won selection alongside the experienced Mark Andrews on merit during the visit to France.

"One of the differences between Saturday's teams is the ability to score tries," White observed. "Nick Mallett has a passion for scoring tries." South Africa scored nine against Italy and 12 in the two internationals with France; seven of those 21 have come from Pieter Rossouw, the Western Province wing, whose total now is ten from nine appearances.

The other aspect relevant to the game tomorrow is the success of the British Isles in South Africa last summer. This is the nearest South Africa will come to playing a "return" match: eight members of England's XV were Lions and that has added zest to South Africa's preparations even if Mallett described this as a "new phase" after distinctly mixed results during eight internationals under the old management earlier this year.

England, he has been telling his team, are the true grand-slam side. "They have been the best five nations' side for the last five years," he said.

"For me, they are the real grand-slam winners, not France. England should never have lost the decider last season and we have to remember that last week in Paris [when South Africa won 52-10] both the weather and the French were in our favour — the first because it was sympathetic to our attacking style and the second because France played so poorly.

"England will not be the same. They played with great commitment and passion against New Zealand and we may have to play differently to win. We would like to play flamboyantly and score tries but if the defence is good, we will have to grind out a win."

England made four changes of personnel from the XV that lost 25-8 to the All Blacks and added a fifth yesterday when Phil de Glanville withdrew because of damaged ankle ligaments. His replacement in the centre, Nick Greenstock, will be winning his fourth cap and joins John Bentley, Darren Garforth and Danny Grewcock in playing his first international at Twickenham.

"Phil was playing extremely well and it is unfortunate he will not have the opportunity to capitalise on his good form," Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, said. "But one of the benefits we have is that English rugby is creating an extremely competitive environment. People are coming in and those left out are dying to get back. Nick Greenstock has forced his way in with some robust performances and he will look to improve his game at the higher level."

Greenstock, 24 earlier this month, won his first three caps in Argentina and against Australia in Sydney last July, a match where he felt his display might have warranted inclusion in England's initial squad this season. He played alongside Matt Allen, of Northampton, against the All Blacks for Emerging England at Huddersfield and for the English Rugby Partnership XV in Bristol, the pair forming a particularly effective partnership in the latter game.

Mike Catt, who kicked so poorly against New Zealand at Old Trafford will be the first-choice goalkicker, with Matt Dawson as back-up.

CRAIG PRENTIS / ALLSPORT

Greenstock, capped three times, has forced his way into the team with some robust performances

Howley ready for belated chance on greatest stage

Mark Souster on the Wales scrum half keen to meet twin towers of his position

One of the saddest sights in rugby this year was that of Robert Howley trudging off the field in Durban in June clutching a dislocated shoulder. The injury forced him to miss the three international matches against South Africa and, at the time, appeared to have dealt a serious blow to the British Isles' chances of beating the Springboks. On a personal level, it also denied him the opportunity of facing Joost van der Westhuizen.

What happened in South Africa is still a sore point even if the shoulder is not, but another day brings another challenge and tomorrow it is Justin Marshall, the New Zealand captain, who will be Howley's opponent. Their confrontation will be one of several fascinating personal duels within the international. Depending on who you listen to, both men — together with Van der Westhuizen — are rivals for the accolade of the world's best scrum half.

Having confirmed his rehabilitation as a replacement against Tonga, Howley, 27, will win his eighteenth cap on the wide-open spaces of Wembley.

"Playing New Zealand won't make up for the sadness of the Lions tour, but it is a chance to meet the best side in the world and to compete against Marshall," Howley said. "New Zealand are a great side. They probably have to play below par if we are going to beat them but our spirit is great. It will be a terrific challenge.

"It is not often you get the chance to play on the Wembley turf. It doesn't matter that we are not in Cardiff. There will be 20,000 more supporters at Wembley. The atmosphere will be incredible. It is going to be an unbelievable day," Howley, who will be facing New Zealand for the first time, said.

There is a discernible sense of optimism about Wales at the moment, buoyed by five successive victories and the belief that, after two years, the master-plan of Kevin Bowring, the coach, is beginning to bear fruit. They have also drawn encouragement from the manner in which England and the English Rugby Partnership XV confronted the challenge of the All Blacks head on.

"We are going to attack. Welsh sides of old may have gone out trying just to keep the score down. We have got respect for them but we have to keep the tempo of the game as high as we can for as long as we can. We will take the challenge to New Zealand.

"It is no good just accepting defeat and defending for 80 minutes. England showed that they are only human beings. We will have to be at the top of our game to beat them but we intend to attack the space and the areas where we think there are slight weaknesses. With the back line we have it looks a great prospect. If our front five can give us some ball and a platform to work off we can come out with a bit more respect than we have done in recent years."

Howley's speed off the mark, eye for a gap and try-scoring ability should ensure that the New Zealand back row have their hands full. He scored the final international try for Wales at the National Stadium against England in March and his return from the miseries of South Africa will be complete if he can conjure another one to help Wales to their first victory over New Zealand in 44 years and 13 attempts.

'Playing New Zealand won't make up for the Lions tour'

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF S98 MEETING OF CREDITORS
Foxhill Carriages & Stables Limited
Principal Trading Address: Lambs Farm, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading, Berkshire.
Company Number: 3172193.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Columbia Centre, Market Street, Bracknell on 4 December 1997 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Kenneth Stephen Chalk of Deloitte & Touche, of Columbia Centre, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire will provide creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require. Creditors requiring this information should contact in the first instance Shaun Hyland on 01344 727439.

A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Deloitte & Touche of Columbia Centre, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire during the two business days preceding the above meeting.

Dated: 24 November 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
S W Schwick, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
EMPLOYMENT LINK (SOLIHULL) LIMITED
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we, JOHN MICHAEL MUNN of F A Simms & Partners, Insol House, 39 Station Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4AP, and LYNN ROBERT BAILEY of Cork Gully, Charnwood Court, New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE were appointed Joint Liquidators of the said Company on 17th November 1997. NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above-named Company are required on or before 2nd day of January 1998 to send their names and addresses, particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitor (if any) to: JOHN MICHAEL MUNN of F.A. Simms & Partners, Insol House, 39 Station Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4AP, the Joint Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notices or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 17th day of November 1997
J M MUNN, Joint Liquidator

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE REVERTER OF SITES ACT 1987

The former Berkhamsytch School in the County of Stafford

WHEREAS:

(1) The trustees of Berkhamsytch school formerly held the land specified in the schedule hereto under a deed dated 29 September 1874 and made between John Boulton and George Boulton of the one part and the Reverend Robert Henry Goodacre, Dryden Henry Sneyd, Charles Bill, Frank Atkinson Argles, James Smith, Thomas Scarratt, Thomas Brindlebank and Henry Fern of the other part (trustees). The deed was made under provisions of the School Sites Act 1852 upon trust for "use for the purposes of a site for a school for the education of children and adults or children only of the labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes of the parish of Ipstones in the principles of the established Church of England". On ceasing to be used for those purposes there was a provision for reverter of land.

(2) The land ceased to be so used and by virtue of section 1 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 became subject to a trust to sell the land and to stand possessed of the net proceeds of sale and of the net rents and profits until sale upon trust for the persons who but for that Act would from time to time be entitled to ownership of the land by virtue of its reverter.

(3) The Trustees have sold the land and now hold the property specified in the schedule hereto on the last-mentioned trust.

Now the Trustees give notice as follows:

1. The Trustees propose to apply to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales under section 2 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 for an Order establishing a Scheme with respect to the property subject to the said trust which will:
   (a) extinguish the rights of beneficiaries under the trust; and
   (b) require the Trustees to hold the said property on trust for such charitable purposes as may be specified in the order. *(Briefly stated this will be for the continuation of the education of children in Berkhamsytch in the new School now being erected in Ipstones).*
2. Any beneficiary under the trust who wishes to oppose the extinguishment of his rights should notify his claim in writing to the Trustees c/o Challinors and Shaw, Solicitors, 10 Derby Street, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 5AW by 4.00pm on 28 February 1998.

SCHEDULE

'All that close and piece of land containing a quarter of an acre or thereabouts being part of the Upper Berkhamsytch Farm in the Parish of Ipstones in the County of Stafford occupied by Joseph Mycock having a frontage in length to the Leek and Ashbourne Turnpike Road of 40 yards and a depth along the entire length of 30 yards on the southeasterly corner of the said farm'.

BELL CANADA INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED
(Registered in England No. 2764470)
Proposed payment out of capital pursuant to Section 171 of the Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") that:-
(a) Bell Canada International Holdings Limited (the Company) has by a Special Resolution passed on 25 November 1997 approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring by redemption a total of 26,410 Class "H" Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each in its own share capital;
(b) the permissible capital payment (as defined in Section 171 of the Act) for such shares is £6,866,349.40;
(c) the statutory declarations of the Company's directors and the report of the Company's auditors required by Section 173 of the Act in respect of such payment out of capital are available for inspection by any member or creditor of the Company at the Company's registered office at One Silk Street, London EC2Y 8HQ during business hours on any day (except a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday) up to and including 30 December 1997; and
(d) any creditor of the Company may at any time up to and including 30 December 1997 apply to the High Court of Justice under Section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting such payment out of capital.
25 November 1997
R J Ashmore
For Hackwood Secretaries Limited
Secretary
Registered Office: One Silk Street LONDON EC2Y 8HQ

NO 1152 OF 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, QUEENS BENCH DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF AL OTHMAN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT & PLASTICO AND THEIR CLAIM AGAINST MOHAMMED HASSAN ABUDAWOOD OF SAUDI ARABIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of Judgement in the High Court being given against Mohammed Hassan Abudawood in the sum of US$681,107 with regard to the failure to supply goods to Al Othman Agriculture Production and Processing Establishment and Plastico pursuant to Contract.
Richards Butler
Beaufort House
15 St Botolph Street
London EC3A 7EE
Tel: 0171 247 6555
Fax: 0171 247 5091
Ref:- SMK/RP/96-30481
Solicitors for the above named Plaintiffs.

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986: ACCOUNTING MASTERS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 2.00 pm on 5th December 1997 at The Thatched House, 236 High Street, Epping, Essex CM16 4AF, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the above-named company may be inspected at the offices of Hurst Morrison Thomson, 2 The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7RJ, between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm on 2nd December 1997 and 4th December 1997.

For the purposes of voting a statement of claim and any proxy intended for use at the meeting must be lodged with the company at its registered office, Hurst Morrison Thomson, 2 The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7RJ, not later than 12 noon on 4th December 1997.

Dated 25th November 1997
Steven Barber, Director.

FIFE ELECTRIC LTD
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AN ADVANCED FUEL TECHNOLOGY / INTEGRATED GASIFICATION COMBINED CYCLE POWER STATION AT THE WESTFIELD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE CARDENDEN, FIFE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Fife Electric Ltd has applied under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the consent of the Secretary of State for Scotland to construct and operate an advanced fuel technology / integrated gasification combined cycle (AFT/IGCC) power station at the Westfield Development Centre, Cardenden, Fife and for a direction under Section 57 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

The new station would use a combination of natural gas, municipal waste and coal as fuel and would have an output of 400 Megawatts (MW).

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, is available for inspection during normal office hours at the following addresses:
i) Fife Council, Forth House, Abbotshall Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 1RU
ii) Main Administration Building, Westfield Development Centre, Cardenden, Fife KY5 0HP.

In addition copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained at a cost of £64.50 from The Barton Willmore Partnership, Intercell House, 1 Coldhams Lane, Cambridge CB1 3EP.

Any objection should be made in writing to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Energy Division, Education and Industry Department, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, stating the name of the station and the grounds of objection, within five weeks of the date of publication of this notice.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
LONDON CORPORATE SECURITIES LIMITED -
IN CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company are required on or before 6 April 1998 to send in writing their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims to Andrew James Nichols of Redman Nichols, Licensed Insolvency Practitioners, the liquidator of the said company, at his offices at Maclaren House, Skerne Road, Driffield, East Yorkshire, YO25 7GB, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
A J Nichols, Liquidator

In the matter of Bloom Signs Limited
and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 22 December 1997, to send in their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Paul Francis Jeffery of KPMG, Aquis Court, 31 Fishpool Street, St Albans AL3 4RF, liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Date 26 November 1997
Paul Francis Jeffery
Liquidator

MBSR (Holdings) Limited
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Dilip K Dattani of BDO Stoy Hayward, Foxhall Lodge, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, give notice that on 24 November 1997 I was appointed Liquidator of MBSR (Holdings) Limited by resolutions of members and creditors. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 24 December 1997 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Dilip K Dattani of Foxhall Lodge, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, NG7 6LH, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded fro the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 24 November 1997
Dilip K Dattani, Liquidator.

In The High Court of Justice
No 4618 of 1997
In the Matter of MBC PACKAGING LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at The White House Hotel, 19 Upton Road, Watford WD1 2EL on the 11th day of December 1997 at 3.00pm, (1) to consider my proposals under S.23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a creditors' committee.

A proxy form is available upon request and must be completed and returned to me by the date of the meeting if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented. In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give to me, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of your claim.
DAVID A ROLPH,
Joint Administrator,
Moore Stephens Booth White,
1 Snow Hill, London EC1A 2EN.

NOTICE of resolution for payment out of capital
PICCADILLY ASSURED HOMES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that on 24 day of November 1997 the above named company ("the Company")
1. approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase;
2. the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £70,170;
3. the statutory declaration and auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office; and
4. any creditor of the Company may, at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital, apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting payment.
Dated 24th November 1997
Company Secretary

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities administered by the St. George's Hospital Medical School.
Pooling Scheme.
Reference: MF-43946 -CD(L4n)
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the Scheme can be seen at [illegible] New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3SN (reference: 8/19), or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986: MANUFACTURING MASTERS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at 10.00 am on 5th December 1997 at The Thatched House, 236 High Street, Epping, Essex CM16 4AF, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the above-named company may be inspected at the offices of Hurst Morrison Thomson, 2 The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7RJ, between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm on 3rd December 1997 and 4th December 1997.

For the purposes of voting a statement of claim and any proxy intended for use at the meeting must be lodged with the company at its registered office, Hurst Morrison Thomson, 2 The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7RJ, not later than 12 noon on 4th December 1997.
Dated 25th November 1997
Steven Barber, Director.

In the Matter of Chiswell Street and Finsbury Street Investments Ltd
and in the Matter of the Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Melvyn Julian Carter of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU, give notice that on 18 November 1997 I was appointed Liquidator by resolutions of members.
Dated: 20 November 1997
Signed: M J Carter, Liquidator.

COMPANY NOTICES

TORONTO, GREY & BRUCE RAILWAY COMPANY

Copies of the Balance Sheet of the above Company as at December 31, 1986 are available and may be obtained at: 62-65 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DY, during normal office hours.

R.V. Horte
Secretary.

THE ST. LAWRENCE & OTTAWA RAILWAY COMPANY

Copies of the Balance Sheet of the above Company as at December 31, 1986 are available and may be obtained at: 62-65 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DY, during normal office hours.

R.V. Horte
Secretary.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 680 6878
FAX: 0171 481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final round: Group C: Denmark 64 England 72 (in Copenhagen).
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 103 Los Angeles Lakers 118; Toronto 104 Atlanta 109 (second OT); Philadelphia 89 Cleveland 95; Minnesota 90 Portland 96; Orlando 80 Miami 84; Milwaukee 101 Vancouver 82; San Antonio 94 Washington 98; Phoenix 111 New Jersey 99; Los Angeles Clippers 99 Sacramento 97.

CRICKET

Third Test match

Australia v New Zealand

HOBART (first day of five; Australia won toss): Australia have scored 39 for no wicket against New Zealand

AUSTRALIA: First Innings	
M T G Elliott not out	20
*M A Taylor not out	18
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (no wkt)	39

G S Blewett, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, R T Ponting, †I A Healy, P R Reiffel, S K Warne, M S Kasprowicz and S H Cook to bat.

BOWLING: Doull 5-2-14-0; O'Connor 7-2-15-0; Cairns 3-0-9-0.

NEW ZEALAND: M J Horne, B A Young, †A C Parore, *S P Fleming, R G Twose, C D McMillan, N J Astle, C L Cairns, D L Vettori, S B Doull, S B O'Connor.

Umpires: S Davis (Australia) and R B Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

Second Test match

India v Sri Lanka

NAGPUR (second day of five): India have scored 401 for five wickets against Sri Lanka

INDIA: First Innings	
†N R Mongia c Muralitharan b Pushpakumara	11
N S Sidhu c Atapattu b Vaas	79
R S Dravid c Atapattu b Vaas	92
*S R Tendulkar b Pushpakumara	15
M Azharuddin lbw b Pushpakumara	82
S C Ganguly not out	67
A Kumble not out	42
Extras (b 8, lb 11, w 3, nb 11)	33
Total (5 wkts)	401

J Srinath, R K Chauhan, A P Kuruvila and N M Kulkarni to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-152, 3-182, 4-272, 5-303

BOWLING: Vaas 26-3-65-2; Pushpakumara 25-3-88-3; Silva 28-6-81-0; Muralitharan 41-8-118-0; Ranatunga 1-0-6-0; Jayasuriya 9-2-18-0; Atapattu 1-0-4-0.

SRI LANKA: S T Jayasuriya, M S Atapattu, R S Mahanama, P A de Silva, *A Ranatunga, H P Tillekeratne, †L K L de Silva, W P U J C Vaas, M Muralitharan, K R Pushpakumara, K J Silva.

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and V K Ramaswamy (India).

TOUR MATCH (first day of four): Perth: South Africans 313-5 (G Kirsten 141 not out, S M Pollock 78 not out) v Western Australia.
SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): Melbourne: South Australia 256-5 (D Fitzgerald 81, J D Siddons 60) v Victoria. Brisbane: Tasmania 307-6 (D J Marsh 82 not out) v Queensland.
SUPERSPORT SERIES (first day of four): Kimberley: Border 278 (V C Drakes 98; G A Roe 4-35) v Griqualand West.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group B: Feyenoord 2 Juventus 0. Group C: Barcelona 1 Newcastle 0. Group E: Besiktas 0 Bayern Munich 2; IFK Gothenburg 0 Paris Saint-Germain 1. Group F: AS Monaco 3 Sporting Lisbon 2; Lierse SK 0 Bayer Leverkusen 2.
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea 2 Everton 0.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Middlesbrough 0 Nottingham Forest 0. Third division: Chester 2 Swansea 0.
FA CUP: First-round replay: Solihull 3 Darlington 3 (aet: 3-3 after 90min; Darlington win 4-2 on pens).
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham 1 Odd Down 2.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey 4 Canterbury 2
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Spalding Cup: Second round: Farnborough 2 Hereford 1.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: First round: Boston 1 Bradford Park Avenue 0; Farsley Celtic 0 Guiseley 1.
GILBERT LEAGUE CUP: Second round, first leg: Ebbw Vale 4 Aberystwyth 2; Newtown 2 Cwmbran 5.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth 1 Wimbledon 2; Oxford Utd 0 Tottenham 5.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn 3 Leeds 0; Tranmere 2 Birmingham 2. First division: Bolton 1 Port Vale 3; Huddersfield 2 Manchester City 2; Notts County 2 Grimsby 4. Second division: Carlisle 2 Bradford 1; Sheffield Utd 1 Wrexham 0; Stockport 1 Lincoln 3; York 3 Rotherham 0. Third division: Doncaster 2 Walsall 1. Cup: Group four: Chesterfield 1 Wigan 1. Group six: Blackpool 5 Scarborough 3.
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First-round replay: Dulwich Hamlet 0 Welling 1. Second round: Rushden and Diamonds 1 Charlton 6; Shrewsbury 1 Stoke 2.
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second round: Brache Sparta 5 Halstead 1. Second-round replays: Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA 1 Moseley 5; Billingham Town 6 Chester-le-Street 4.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Woodbridge 0 Soham 2.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: St Helens 1 Burscough 1.
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Handrahan Timbers 0 Southam 2.
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Croydon 4 Berkhamsted 0.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Fuji Film Trophy: Third-round replay: Blackpool 5 Rotherham 0. Premier League Trophy: Under-16: Shropshire 1 Staffordshire 2; Berkshire 5 Wiltshire 0; West Midlands 3 Warwickshire 0; Cheshire 3 West Yorkshire 2.

GOLF

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Leading first-round scores (Australia unless stated): 63: P Lonard. 65: A Coltart (Scot). 66: S Allan, S Leaney. 67: C Spence, D Anderson, B Partridge, N O'Hern. 68: G Norman, L Westwood (Eng), P Devenport (NZ), P Senior, R Damron (US), R Byrd (US), S Tait, R Allenby. 69: D Diaz, G Evans (Eng), K Felton, M Calcavecchia (US), S Robinson, S Appleby, P Moloney, P Mickelson (US). 70: D Vera, S Bouvier, B Clarkson, D Howell (Eng), L Parsons, R Pampling, D Small (NZ), S Thompson (NZ), C Parry, G Chalmers, J Evans.
HARARE: Zimbabwe Open: Leading first-round scores (South Africa unless stated): 65: J Kingston. 66: M Morless. 67: P Panagopoulos, D Fichardt. 68: N Price (Zim), T van der Walt, M McNulty (Zim), C Whitelaw, N Kamungeremu (Zim).

HOCKEY

UNIVERSITY MATCH: Cambridge 1 London 0.

ICE HOCKEY

EXPRESS CUP: Ayr Scottish Eagles 7 Sheffield Steelers 4.
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 1 Philadelphia 3; Pittsburgh 3 Carolina 2; Detroit 4 Ottawa 1; Florida 10 Boston 5; New York Islanders 4 New York Rangers 1; Tampa Bay 3 Colorado 3 (OT); Washington 5 Montreal 6; Dallas 4 Los Angeles 1; Anaheim 2 New Jersey 0.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Ireland A 26 Canada XV 10 (at Ravenhill); Leeds 29 Tonga XV 15.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Second leg (Cape Town to Fremantle): Latest positions (as at 12.00GMT yesterday): 1, Swedish Match (Swe) finished after 15 days 3hr 45min 3sec; 2, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 15:22:02:35; 3, Toshiba (US) 16:05:12:12; 4, Silk Cut (GB) 16:15:05:09; 5, EF Language (Swe) 16:20:06:00; 6, Chessie Racing (US) 17:11:51:47; 7, Merit Cup (Monaco) 19:02:37:07; 8, EF Education (Swe) 89.3 miles to Fremantle; 9, BrunelSunergy (Hol) 108.

SHOOTING

LANGKAWI, Malaysia: Commonwealth championships: Men: Fullbore rifle: 1, J Paton (Can) 402.53pts; 2, I Shaw (Scot) 401.51; 3, M Millar (N Ire) 400.49; 4, C Mallett (Jersey) 400.45; 5, D Calvert (N Ire) 399.53; 6, A Luckman (Eng) 399.52. Other British: 9, L Peden (Scot) 398.52; 14, C Hockley (Wales) 394.37; 15, A Ringer (Eng) 393.45; 16, D Davies (Wales) 393.40; 17, B Horwood (Jersey) 392.42. Rapid fire pistol: 1, H Hassan (Malaysia) 672.1; 2, A Breton (Guernsey) 671.6; 3, B Quick (Aus) 670.2. Centre fire pistol: 1, J Rana (India) 589; 2, F van Tonder (SA) 582; 3, A McDonald (SA) 579; 7, P Rippent (Eng) 571; 9, P Clarke (Eng) 565; 11, S Pengelly (Wales) 559; 13, R Craven (Wales) 549. Free rifle prone: 1, G van Rhyn (SA) 698.6; 2, S Petterson (NZ) 697.8; 3, H Creevy (Malaysia) 693.9; 4, M Babb (Eng) 691.2. Women: Air rifle: 1, M Benarin (Malaysia) 493.6; 2, M Wickramasinge (Sri Lanka) 491; 3, B Spicer (Eng) 490.6. Trap: 1, L Wung Yew (Sing) 145; 2, G Mark (Aus) 141; 3, M Dixon (Eng) 141. Three-positions rifle: 1, C Quigley (Aus) 662.6; 2, S McIntosh (Scot) 661.6; 3, N Mowari (Malaysia) 652.4; 4, B Spicer (Eng) 652.3.

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Liverpool Victoria UK Championship: Quarter-finals: S Lee (Eng) bt M King (Eng) 9-2; M Stevens (Wales) bt M Dzieweitowski (Scot) 9-1; S Hendry (Scot) leads A McManus (Scot) 5-3; R O'Sullivan (Eng) level with G Greene (Eng) 4-4.

SQUASH

DOHA: Qatar International: Final: J Power (Can) bt P Nicol (Scot) 17-16, 15-13, 14-17, 9-15, 15-8.
MONACO: Women's Monte Carlo Classic: First round: S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt H van Hoorn (Hol) 9-1, 9-6, 9-0; C Nitch (SA) bt F Geaves (Eng) 10-8, 9-4, 7-9, 4-9, 9-3; S Schöne (Ger) bt M Zein (Egypt) 9-5, 9-2, 8-10, 9-0; E Irving (Aus) bt K Hannes (Bel) 9-3, 9-3, 9-7; J Martin (Eng) bt V Atkinson (Hol) 8-10, 8-10, 9-4, 9-0, 9-5; S Wright (Eng) bt E Petersen (Den) 9-4, 9-1, 9-5; L Charman (Eng) bt T Malik (Wales) 10-8, 9-4, 10-8; C Jackman (Eng) bt R Macree (Eng) 9-6, 9-1, 4-9, 9-3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League
First division
Charlton v Swindon (7.45)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: St Patrick's Ath v Drogheda (7.45); Shelbourne v Derry (7.45).

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: West Ham v Ipswich (at Chadwell Heath, 1.0).

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Corby v Cogenhoe (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

Tour match
Bath v ACT (7.15)

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup
Group A
Wakefield v Northampton (7.30)

Group B
Leicester v London Irish (7.30)

Group C
Coventry v Moseley (7.30)

Welsh League
First division
Caerphilly v Llandovery (7.15)

CLUB MATCHES: Lydney v Clifton (7.30); Oxford University v Cardiff Institute (7.15).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation lightweight championship: Z Kalocsai (Hun) v C Dunne (Holloway) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green).
SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston).
SQUASH: University match: Oxford v Cambridge (at RAC Club, Pall Mall; women 1.30, men 4.0).
TENNIS: European women's team championship (at Redbridge).

هكذا من الأجل

FOOTBALL

Gross ready to bank on bonus at Tottenham

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

SWITZERLAND is renowned for its secret bank accounts and utter discretion in matters of finance. Not so Christian Gross, the country's most famous recent export, the newly appointed head coach of Tottenham Hotspur. Gross, formerly of Grasshopper Zurich, has revealed that he will be paid a minimum of £450,000 a year as he tries to rescue Tottenham from the FA Carling Premiership mire.

Gross, 43, signed an 18-month contract at White Hart Lane eight days ago, shortly after Gerry Francis resigned. Although reluctant to share his innermost thoughts with the English media, he discussed his new deal with *Tages-Anzeiger*, the Swiss daily newspaper, this week.

"All told, I'll be earning more than SwFr 1 million (about £450,000) a season," he said. "After tax, it will be a little less than SwFr 1 million, but I will receive bonuses on top of the basic salary." Presumably, he will be suitably rewarded if he guides Tottenham away from relegation.

Gross said that he would have declined the offer of Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, had Grasshopper not lost to FC Croatia Zagreb in the Uefa Cup and that he was aware he was not the first choice for the job. Sugar had preferred Ottmar Hitzfeld, the former Borussia Dortmund coach who is now general manager at the Bundesliga club.

"If we had beaten Zagreb and remained in Europe, the deal that brought me to Tottenham would not have come about," Gross said. "Ottmar was offered the chance before me, but he turned it down and put in a very good reference for me.

"I've had approaches from foreign clubs before — from Celtic, Borussia Mönchengladbach and SV Hamburg — but, at the time, I didn't feel ready to join them. The moment Spurs came in for me, I felt this was where I wanted to go. Everything moved quickly from then on."

Ron Atkinson, the new Sheffield Wednesday manager, is looking abroad as he attempts to strengthen his squad. Atkinson was in Zagreb on Tuesday night, where he watched Igor Cvitanovic, the Croatia Zagreb striker, play in the 1-1 draw against Atlético Madrid in their Uefa Cup third round, first-leg match.

Cvitanovic, 26, has been the leading goalscorer in the Croatian league for the past three seasons. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, tried to sign him two years ago, but Cvitanovic could not obtain a work permit. If Atkinson pursues his interest, he faces competition from Borussia Dortmund, Real Sociedad, who have made an offer of £3 million, and Werder Bremen.

Atkinson may enjoy more fruitful negotiations with Coventry City for David Burrows, the defender. Burrows, who joined Coventry, then under Atkinson, from Everton, could move to Hillsborough in exchange for Mark Pembridge, the Wales and Wednesday midfield player, plus a small cash adjustment in Coventry's favour.

Wimbledon's proposed move to Dublin has again been rejected by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). Bernard O'Byrne, the FAI chief executive, said yesterday: "We have received a fax from Sam Hammam [the Wimbledon managing director] in the past six months, which requested a meeting and we politely replied that there was no agenda to talk about.

"We have the backing of every football authority and have taken legal advice at the highest level. The Wimbledon people can go to the European Commission or whoever they like. Very simply, we will not allow this to happen."

David Curtolo, a midfield player, has joined Aston Villa for a nominal fee from Vasteras, the Swedish side, after a brief trial at Villa Park. Villa will make further payments for the 17-year-old if he breaks into the first team.

Fast forward Davies seeks more reruns

Nick Szczepanik meets a young player making a striking impact on the Premiership

RUSSELL SACH

After initially suffering from homesickness, Davies is now happy and settled in the Southampton dressing-room

When Kevin Davies turned Philippe Albert, strolled past Darren Peacock and knocked the ball nonchalantly beyond the advancing Shaka Hislop with the outside of his right foot after only five minutes of Southampton's match at St James' Park on Saturday, it could have been the goal of his career.

But for Davies, 20, in his first season in the FA Carling Premiership, it was not even his best of the month. That came against Everton in a televised game at Goodison Park — or so he recalled. "I haven't watched *Match of the Day* since I've played here," Davies said. "My brother and mother tape it, but I've not seen the goal at Newcastle and only caught a glimpse of the one at Everton. It doesn't affect me."

It is to be hoped that the tapes are well looked after, for there are several memorable strikes among his ten goals for Southampton — not a bad return for a player who scored only seven for Chesterfield last season.

He made his Chesterfield debut at 16, after being rejected by Sheffield United, the club he supported, and had played more than 100 League games when Graeme Souness, then the manager of Southampton, signed him in June. Souness departed ten days later, to be replaced by David Jones, but Davies saw a chance to start on an equal footing with established players.

Nevertheless, the early part of the season was uncomfortable for both the new men, even when Davies's first goal for Southampton, against Crystal Palace, brought Jones his first win as a Premiership manager. Davies, who comes from a closely knit family, admitted to suffering from an early bout of homesickness. "I was on the bench and going home to a hotel on my own after training, but I sat down with the manager and everything has worked out fine."

Davies has also settled into the team, Southampton's upturn in form coinciding with him claiming a regular spot. He may not watch himself on television, but he has begun to attract the attention of a wider public.

Davies, who has appeared as a substitute for the England under-21 team, has clear aims and was not surprised to find himself in the first team. "When I signed, I saw there was a chance to break into a team with a small squad," he said. "I rise to a challenge. I love going out and facing Liverpool or Everton but I've only scored once in any match. I'm scoring goals, but I could score more."

Davies and Terry Cooper, the Southampton assistant manager under both Souness and Jones, use the same words to describe his effect on defenders, "a handful". "It's a big jump from the second division to the Premiership, but he's taken it in his stride," Cooper said.

He will learn from colleagues such as David Hirst, signed from Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton's opponents at The Dell tomorrow. Among their supporters will be Davies's father and, while most eyes will be on Hirst's efforts to make his mark against his former employees, a supporter of their greatest rivals may be the one who does the damage.

Hinckley knit together for Trophy quest

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

A SERIOUS question arose after two rival clubs had merged: what should the new club take as its nickname? With the Robins, of Hinckley Athletic, and the Eagles, of Hinckley Town, no more, a competition was held in a local newspaper — and the hosiery tradition of the Leicestershire town is now celebrated by the Knitters of Hinckley United.

This afternoon, Hinckley's Knitters make a 230-mile trip for an overnight stop in Barrow before playing the UniBond League premier division leaders in an FA Trophy third qualifying-round tie. Having gone through three rounds of the FA Cup before falling in the fourth qualifying round to Colwyn Bay, Hinckley are bidding to reach the first round proper of the Trophy and the arrival of the Vauxhall Conference clubs.

They have already seen off Stafford Rangers, after a replay, and Whitby Town, winners of the FA Carlsberg Vase last season, the latter in an extraordinary match in which Hinckley had a player sent off, went 1-0 down and won 3-1.

Seven players in the Hinckley squad were recruited from Bedworth United by Dean Thomas, the joint-manager (with John Hanna, the former Athletic manager), who enjoyed considerable success at Bedworth last season.

United play in a red-and-blue striped kit that is a judicious amalgam of Athletic red and Town claret and blue, and the committee contains seven members from each club. Kevin Downes, the chairman, and Stuart Millidge, the secretary, were both formerly with Town, a precondition laid down by the Dr Martens League for the new club to keep Town's place in its midland division.

"The former Hinckley Athletic had been founded a long time before Hinckley Town, but it was Town who had made the most recent progress in playing terms," Millidge said. "Town's problem was that their ground was out of the town centre, so the merger brought the new club to Middlefield Lane, Athletic's ground, where there are much better gates."

Athletic, who were in the Southern League in the 1950s and 1960s, had been playing in the Midland Alliance. The merger was adopted by 90 per cent of the shareholders. "The past is behind us, we're only thinking to the future now," Millidge said. Starting at Holker Street tomorrow.

Cruyff to remain in Dutch hospital for tests

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHAN CRUYFF, Holland's greatest player, was admitted to an Amsterdam hospital yesterday complaining of chest pains. Doctors said that he was "in a satisfactory condition", but would be kept under observation for a week.

"He called an ambulance and was brought here," a spokesman for the University Hospital said. "He will be undergoing extensive tests."

Cruyff, 50, underwent bypass surgery in 1991 after suffering a heart attack while he was manager of Barcelona. He had recently been working as a football commentator on Dutch television.

Officials from Bayer Leverkusen are to protest to Uefa about the treatment of their supporters by Belgian police after the Champions' League match against SK Lierse in Ghent on Wednesday night.

Reiner Calmund, manager of the German club, claimed that he had witnessed supporters being doused with water and beaten with sticks by Belgian police. "They were hitting women and older people. People lying on the ground were beaten. It was the worst thing I've seen in football," Calmund said. Belgian police said that they had acted in self-defence.

Paul Trollope has decided to leave Derby County to become the second Wales international to join Fulham in as many days. The Nationwide League second division side will pay Derby £550,000 for the midfield player, with £50,000 to follow if they secure promotion. Fulham also completed the signing yesterday of Steve McAnespie, the Bolton Wanderers defender, for £100,000.

Trollope, 25, will link up with his fellow Welshman, Alan Neilson, who moved from Southampton for £250,000 on Tuesday. The signings take Fulham's spending past £4.5 million since Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins were brought to the club by Mohamed Al Fayed.

Chris Bart-Williams, of Nottingham Forest, is to undergo a cartilage operation next week and will be out of action until March.

The Bolivia striker, Jaime Moreno, returned to Middlesbrough yesterday on a three-month loan from the US Major League club, DC United.

SNOOKER

Newcomer Stevens shows maturity of a veteran

BY PHIL YATES

CONTINUING to substitute the anonymity of the *Llanelli* and District League for a national spotlight, Matthew Stevens reached the semi-finals of a second consecutive world-ranking tournament in Preston yesterday.

Stevens, a semi-finalist at the Grand Prix last month, eased through to the corresponding stage of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship with the assurance of a veteran as he scored a 9-1 victory over Martin Dziewialtowski, whose giant-killing march was ended.

"I've had to miss two league matches and my team lost 7-0 last night," Stevens, 20, said with youthful enthusiasm, untainted by any sense of low-key local engagements being a chore. If he continues to play with such panache, the Terry Griffiths Matchroom Club will surely be forced to look for a new star player.

Stevens constructed a 143 total clearance to earn the pre-televised highest-break prize of £1,500 during a 9-8 win over Tony Drago, the No 11 seed, in the last 32 before defeating Mark Williams, the world No 4, 9-1 in the next round.

Those results, coupled with his breakthrough at the Grand Prix, suggest that the former United Kingdom junior champion possesses the credentials to surprise Alan McManus or Stephen Hendry, the title-holder, over the best-of-17 frames today.

"Even when things weren't going too well I never lost any of my self-belief," Stevens, who despite his tender years has an abundance of competitive experience on which to call, said.

His father, Morrell, estimates that he drove 250,000 miles while Stevens Jr served his snooker apprenticeship on the pro-am and junior circuit. With his son now standing two wins away from a £75,000 first prize and already guaranteed £19,750, those chauffeuring duties are beginning to look a solid investment.

Stevens has also received guidance from the owner of the club that he represents. Although he plays more aggressively and at a considerably quicker clip than Griffiths, the 1979 world champion, Stevens has similar qualities when it comes to dedication and commitment.

Resuming yesterday with the luxury of a 7-1 lead, Stevens completed victory only 29 minutes into the concluding session as Dziewialtowski surrendered meekly.

He won the ninth frame with a 56 break, compiled despite being handicapped by a number of awkwardly positioned reds, and the tenth with a late run of 41.

Gerard Greene, the 9-2 conqueror of Steve Davis in the second round, again underlined his lack of respect for reputation by establishing a 4-0 advantage over Ronnie O'Sullivan, the 1993 UK champion, before finishing the afternoon at 4-4.

Good news for NatWest Card Plus customers

NatWest announces that from 1 December 1997, the interest rate for its Card Plus account for 11-20 year olds will be increased to:

Gross interest per annum* 5.00%
Gross C.A.R.** 5.12%
Net interest per annum 4.00%

* Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross. The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax. ** Gross Compounded Annual Rate (C.A.R.) is the rate where gross interest payments are retained in the account during the year. Rates subject to variation.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

SPORT IN BRIEF

Nicol goes the way of Jansher

SQUASH: Peter Nicol, of Scotland, was beaten by Jonathon Power, of Canada, in the final of the Qatar International tournament in Doha yesterday. Power, the fourth seed, won 17-16, 15-13, 14-17, 9-15, 15-8 as he recorded his sixth PSA Tour win in a little more than a year. The victory came after Power's win over Jansher Khan, the world No 1, in the semi-finals, a win he described as the best of his career.

Bears reborn

RUGBY LEAGUE: **The reborn Oldham club will play at Boundary Park, the home of Oldham Athletic Football Club, next season under a 12-month rental agreement, revert to red-and-white hooped jerseys and reintroduce their "Roughyeds" nickname after the demise of Oldham Bears.**

Best in demand

RUGBY UNION: Newport have emerged as front-runners to secure the services of the former England coach, Dick Best, as director of rugby. Best yesterday settled a dispute with Harlequins, who dismissed him six months ago.

Lonard leads

GOLF: **Peter Lonard, the Australian Masters champion, recorded a course-record, nine-under-par 63 to take a two-stroke lead in the opening round of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. He leads Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, on 65.**

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Defence is one of the hardest areas of the game. Would you have avoided the trap on the following hand?

Dealer North   Love all   Rubber bridge

North:
♠ 6
♥ A J 10 6
♦ K Q 10 9 6
♣ K 8 4

West:
♠ 9 8 5 4 3 2
♥ 7 4 2
♦ A 3
♣ Q 3

East:
♠ Q 10 7
♥ K
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A J 10 9 6 5

South:
♠ A K J
♥ Q 9 8 5 3
♦ J 8 4
♣ 7 2

S	W	N	E
—	—	1D	2C
2H	Pass	3H	Pass
4H	All Pass		

Contract: Four Hearts by South.   Lead: queen of clubs

Against Four Hearts, West leads the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. East cashes the jack of clubs, but what should he play next? It looks routine to play a third club but if declarer ruffs high — which seems likely — then West is unable to overruff and the cat will be well and truly out of the bag. Even the most unenterprising declarer will now, surely, reject the trump finesse and pin his hopes on East's "marked" king being bare.

So East should switch to a spade at trick three and not reveal the position. A suspicious declarer will still come to the right conclusion as to why East did not continue with a third club; but at least East will not have provided an exact blueprint of the lay-out.

This deal comes from one of the latest Batsford bridge books, *Basic Defence* by Freddie North. It is available direct from the publisher on 01376 321276.

☐ In its "Movers and Shakers" series, Channel 4 is showing a programme on Monday about the efforts of a North London housewife to cut the mustard at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Though there's not much in the way of technical content, there are one or two good scenes at the YC. The programme's claim that the YC is "the toughest bridge club in the country" is incorrect — that title belongs to TGR's.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PLOCHTEACH
a. A supply teacher
b. A board game
c. A sheep disease

FLAPDRAGON
a. A pancake
b. A biplane
c. Raisins in brandy

GUTTLE
a. To make a pig of oneself
b. To catch a fish by hand
c. Idle gossip

ARISTOLOGY
a. The study of nobs
b. The art of lunching
c. The science of corn

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Prodigy shines

It was interesting to observe that Britain's young prodigy, Luke McShane, 13, had to struggle somewhat to achieve his international master title and on a number of occasions narrowly missed the norm before, eventually becoming Britain's youngest ever international master. Having jumped that hurdle, though, McShane is now swiftly beginning to challenge for the grandmaster title. Here are two of his wins from the London international.

White: Luke McShane
Black: Angus Dunnington
London, October 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	Nf6
4	Nc3	cxd4
5	Nxd4	g6
6	Be3	Bg7
7	f3	Nc6
8	Bc4	0-0
9	Qd2	Bd7
10	0-0-0	Ne5
11	Bb3	Rc8
12	h4	h5
13	Bg5	Rc5
14	Kb1	b5
15	g4	a5
16	gxh5	Nxh5
17	Nd5	Re8
18	Nf4	a4
19	Nxh5	gxh5
20	Bd5	Rxd5
21	exd5	Nc4
22	Qe2	Qa5
23	Rhg1	Kh8
24	Bc1	a3
25	Nb3	axb2
26	Bxb2	Na3+
27	Kc1	Bxb2+
28	Kxb2	Qb4
29	Qe1	Nc4+
30	Ka1	Qa3
31	Qc3+	f6
32	Rd3	Ra8
33	Nc1	Qc5
34	Re1	b4
35	Qd4	Qc7
36	Rxe7	Ne5
37	Qf4	Black resigns

White: Daniel Gormally
Black: Luke McShane
London, October 1997

King's Indian Defence

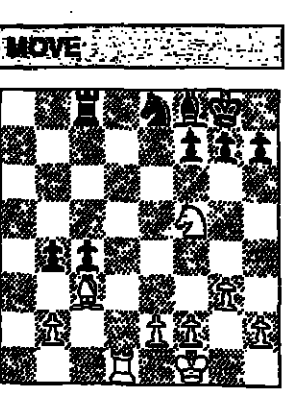
1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7
4	e4	d6
5	Nf3	0-0
6	Be2	e5
7	0-0	Nc6
8	d5	Ne7
9	b4	Nh5
10	Re1	h6
11	c5	Nf4
12	Bf1	g5
13	Nd2	f5
14	cxd6	cxd6
15	Nc4	g4
16	b5	h5
17	Ba3	Rf6
18	Qb3	Kh8
19	b6	a6
20	Qb4	Bf8
21	Ne3	h4
22	exf5	Nxf5
23	Ne4	Rg6
24	Nxf5	Bxf5
25	Rac1	Rc8
26	Qb3	Bxe4
27	Rxe4	Nh3+
28	gxh3	gxh3+
29	Kh1	Qg5
30	Rxh4+	Qxh4
31	Qxh3	Qxh3
32	Bxh3	Rxc1+
33	Bxc1	Bh6
34	Ba3	Bf4
35	Bc8	e4
36	Bb2+	Be5
37	Bxe5+	dxe5
38	Bxb7	Rxb6
39	Bc6	Rb2
40	Kg1	Rxa2

White resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Speelman — Velimirovic, Maribor 1980.

Black's advanced queenside pawns give him an edge in this endgame. How did Speelman now neutralise Black's efforts to win the game?

Solution on page 50

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

Merit Cup finishes leg almost four days behind winner

Dalton finds nowhere to hide

Edward Gorman sees a great sailor wipe the egg from his face and hatch a new plan for the rest of the race

STEPHEN MUNDAY / ALLSPORT

Dalton tries to put a brave face on his second-leg embarrassment after limping into Fremantle yesterday

THIS was the most painful of Whitbread finishes: the great Grant Dalton, in his fifth Whitbread Round the World Race, the winner of the maxi class in the previous race, struggling into Fremantle in seventh place at the end of the second leg, 95 hours behind the leg-winner, Gunnar Krantz, on *Swedish Match*.

In doing so, Dalton, of New Zealand, and his highly rated crew on *Merit Cup* have blown a huge hole in one of the best-prepared Whitbread campaigns, amassing just 48 points for the leg and slipping to fifth place overall. Never, even in their worst nightmares, did Dalton and his team envisage arriving anywhere in seventh place.

On the dock, under a starlit sky, it was agonising to watch as Dalton, or "Dalts" as he is known, stepped sheepishly ashore, hands in pockets, to face race officials who, oblivious to the realities of the situation, persevered with the second-leg medal ceremony and then the presentation to Dalton and his crew of two magnums of champagne.

Rarely can such excellent wine have been more predictably and needlessly wasted. Dalton himself declined the chance to spray the waiting cameramen, so two of his crew, with ruthless and unsmiling intent, sprayed him instead, emptying the lot without a drop passing their lips.

> 'Never in their worst nightmares did they envisage arriving anywhere in seventh'

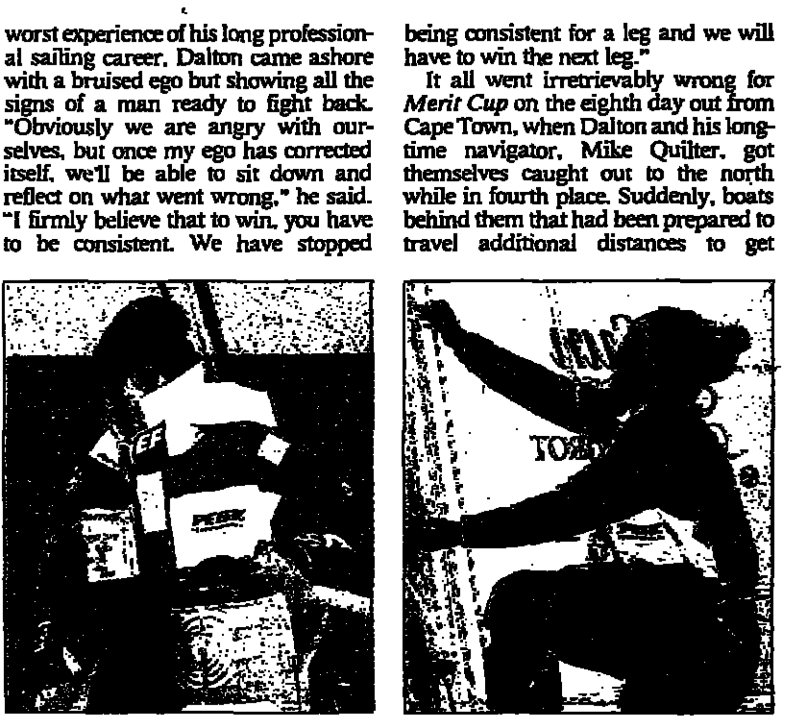
In the background, not visible but present in the minds of many of those watching, were the all-women crew on *EF Education*. With just 65 miles left to sail as Dalton crossed the line, they must have been glowing with satisfaction. They had not beaten him, but to finish within as little as five hours of *Merit Cup* over 4,600 miles of the Southern Ocean was humiliating for a man who has often had the temerity to say that all-women crews have no place racing against the men in the Whitbread.

Dalton is a decent man, though, and he was big enough to acknowledge, not only that he had a little egg on his face, but also that Christine Guillou and her crew on *EF Education* deserved praise for the way in which they have applied themselves during one of the toughest legs in the Whitbread.

"If they had beaten us, I would have stabbed myself through the heart with the dividers on the chart table," Dalton said. "Another of the crew would have done something unprintable with a pineapple." A few minutes later, at the dockside press conference, he added: "They [the women] actually did a really nice job — these are very physical boats and they did a really nice job."

Although admitting that this was the worst experience of his long professional sailing career, Dalton came ashore with a bruised ego but showing all the signs of a man ready to fight back. "Obviously we are angry with ourselves, but once my ego has corrected itself, we'll be able to sit down and reflect on what went wrong," he said. "I firmly believe that to win, you have to be consistent. We have stopped being consistent for a leg and we will have to win the next leg."

It all went irretrievably wrong for *Merit Cup* on the eighth day out from Cape Town, when Dalton and his longtime navigator, Mike Quilter, got themselves caught out to the north while in fourth place. Suddenly, boats behind them that had been prepared to travel additional distances to get further south, were flying as they got the best of a new low-pressure system, while *Merit Cup* floundered in light winds, quickly slipping 100 miles behind the pack. Soon they were in completely different weather and, while Lawrie Smith, on *Silk Cut*, and the others ahead started stacking up 400-mile days, Dalton was drifting into what he called "delivery mode".



Christine Briand, left, and Bridget Suckling helped to keep *EF Education* within striking distance of Dalton and *Merit Cup* on the second leg

Yesterday he said that he had always aimed to be race leader by the time the fleet reached Auckland, at the end of the fourth leg, if an overall win was to be achieved. In view of this unexpected setback, he has revised his strategy and now hopes to lead by Fort Lauderdale, at the end of the sixth of the nine legs. Dalton also said that he would be employing a new meteorological team to advise Quilter, who would work alongside his existing router, Bob Rice, with whom *Merit Cup* have an exclusive contract.

In common with an increasing number of skippers in this fascinating race, Dalton is delighted that the old elapsed-time scoring system is now history. "Thank heavens for the points system," he said, to howls of laughter all round. "I am a big fan of the points system — there's no doubt about that."

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HOCKEY

Clifton seek to travel down road of change

CLIFTON, who face a 600-mile round trip in the English Hockey Association Women's Cup on Sunday, are thankful for a Premier League home game against Sutton Coldfield tomorrow (a Correspondent writes). The fourth-round cup draw against Whitley Bay is "a nightmare", according to the Clifton manager, Graham Culliford, who would like a regionalised draw until the last 16.

"Flying on Sunday would have used up our entire Scottish Life sponsorship money of £2,000," he said. "The chosen option of a coach and overnight stay is still a huge expense. Apart from that, it is crucifying the players, who will have a hard fixture the day before on Saturday."

Clifton, in second place, should maintain their league position at the expense of a Sutton Coldfield side that has dropped into the relegation zone with only four points from six games.

In other games, Hightown visit Slough in the league and are at home to Canterbury, of the first division, in the cup; Doncaster meet a depleted Ipswich side in the league and Bluehearts, of the second division, in the cup; and Olton travel to Trojans in the league and Taunton Vale in the cup.

☐ Kerry Moore, a midfield player, and Katy Roberts, a goalkeeper, are the only newcomers to the 1998 England squad of 24 announced yesterday.

SQUAD: H Rose, C Reid, K Roberts, J Brimson, S Banks, K Bowden, P Miller, J Mould, C Voss, K Brown, L Copeland, M Nicholls, J Smith, M Clewlow, J Empson, T Cullen, L Newcombe, M Davies, J Sixsmith, F Greenham, K Moore, L Wright, D Marston-Smith, T Miller.

Reading set sights on double

MANAGERS and coaches generally disapprove of double headers because of the physical strain on players (*Sydney Friskin writes*). However, nine premier division clubs are involved in the fifth round of the men's English Hockey Association Cup on Sunday and all 12 face a full league programme tomorrow.

Three previous winners, Teddington, Guildford and East Grinstead, have been eliminated from the cup competition, leaving the top three sides in the league, Cannock, Southgate and Reading, with their sights on the double this season.

Reading have an easier weekend, having beaten East Grinstead in the fourth round of the cup a fortnight ago and Southgate in the league last Sunday.

With an unchanged side, they have a league engagement against Teddington and a cup-tie against Barford Tigers. Both are away games.

Cannock, according to Martin Gilbody, their manager, are still shell-shocked after the 6-1 defeat at Canterbury last week, but will make no changes for the home matches against Guildford in the league and Old Loughtonians in the cup.

Toughness is a commodity that Hounslow will need for their away cup match against Canterbury. Paul King, the Hounslow manager, expects Nick Taylor, his goalkeeper, to be kept busy, but said: "Much will depend on how Bollond plays in deep defence."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

PLOCHTEACH
(c) Photosensitisation of hill lambs causing lesions and cropping of the ears. It is thought to be increasing, and may be the same as yellowses or saut. It may be caused by eating bog asphodel, which has a yellow flower.

FLAPDRAGON
(c) "A play in which they catch raisins out of burning brandy and, extinguishing them by closing the mouth, eat them." That is, *snapdragon*. If you can play *snapdragon*, you can play *flapdragon*. The original sense may have been identical with a dialectal sense of *snapdragon*, viz. a figure of a dragon's head with snapping jaws, carried about by the mummers at Christmas.

GUTTLE
(a) To eat voraciously; to gormandise. Presumably from *gut* influenced by *guzzle*. Thackeray, *Critical Review*, 1844: "Cleopatra's page guttling the figs in the basket which had brought the asp."

ARISTOLOGY
(b) The art or "science" of dining. From the Greek *ariston* breakfast, luncheon + *logia* discourse. "The Romans defied all the rules of aristology by their abominable excesses."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bxg7! Nxg7 (1 ... Bxg7 2 Ne7+ Kf8 3 Nxc8 Bxb2 4 Nb6! c3 5 Nc4 c2 6 Nxb2 and White will be a pawn up) 2 Nh6+ Kh8 3 Nxf7+ Kg8 4 Nh6+ with perpetual check.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Too young to drink

999 Lifesavers
BBC1, 8.00pm

The *999* series is usually about people who go through dreadful experiences but manage to survive to tell the tale. The tradition is broken tonight in a special edition devoted to under-age drinking. Among those not appearing is Graham Bailey. He died on a railway line next to the pub where he had drunk more than six pints of lager at a friend's birthday party. He was 14. We also hear about Leigh Green, who became addicted to alcohol after starting drinking at 11. The habit has not only split his family but led him to crime and prison. These and other cases put flesh on a survey showing that some 140,000 children in Britain under 16 drink the equivalent of seven pints of beer a week. The programme includes an information film on the physical and social effects of alcohol, made with the Health Education Authority.

War Walks
BBC2, 8.00pm

Professor Richard Holmes may remind some viewers of Dr Magnus Pyke, another man of learning who became a distinguished television populariser. The two men are not dissimilar in looks and they have the same bustling enthusiasm for their subject. In the arm-waving department, however, Pyke still reigns supreme. Tonight Holmes reaches the English Civil War and the decisive battle at Naseby in Northamptonshire in June 1645. Even those who find the period less than gripping will respond to Holmes's spirited narrative which, as usual, is good on the historical background and the weaponry and does its best to evoke the sense of place. But while the site of the conflict is still yielding up musket balls and other artefacts of battle, the fields of oil seed rape give the area a most un-17th century appearance.

Most Wanted
ITV, 9.00pm

This is essentially a variation on the *Crimewatch* formula of using television to appeal to the public to help solve crimes. As the title implies, the emphasis is on people the police most want to find, whether dangerous criminals or missing persons thought to be at risk. One of tonight's appeals concerns a serial rapist. According to forensic tests he has committed three attacks in the past two years but the police suspect him of many more. He is thought to be a lorry driver and his attacks are becoming more vicious each time. The series also includes features on the latest developments in detection and novel ways of ramming home advice on crime prevention. The hosts are Penny Smith, who presents *Crime Monthly* in the ITV London region, and Dermot Murnaghan of ITN and *The Big Story*.

Routledge goes undercover (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Hetty Wainthropp Investigates
BBC1, 9.30pm

Patricia Routledge's OAP detective returns for a third series to right more wrongs and to leave the world, or at least Lancashire, a better place. Like *Dangerfield*, which it has succeeded in this slot, this is a show to feel comfortable with. The portents may appear to be on the dark side, and none more so than in tonight's plot about an arsonist terrorising a council estate. But what appear to be big crimes turn out to be containable and nobody gets seriously hurt. Although it is not very believable that a woman should celebrate her senior citizenship by setting up a detective agency, and even less that the police should take her seriously, Routledge's expert and sympathetic performance is a continued delight. The same can be said of Dominic Monaghan as Hetty's even more unlikely young assistant. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Performance on 3: Prokofiev Festival
Radio 3, 7.30pm

The pick of a pretty thin night is this, the first of three broadcasts from the Festival Hall which will feature works by Sergei Prokofiev that are not often played. Tonight's programme, narrated by Simon Callow, focuses on early compositions, written at a time when Prokofiev, having won a place at the St Petersburg Conservatory when he was only 13, had emerged as an anti-traditionalist. Tonight's programme starts with the *Violin Concerto No 1* and includes, at 8.25, *Chout: Tale of the Buffoon*, a ballet commissioned by Diaghilev. That is preceded, at 8.05, by a word portrait of the composer who had written two operas by the age of 11 and whose musical output was to continue to be prodigious for the rest of his life (he died in 1953).

Let's Dance
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

This series is fast establishing itself as a useful social history of the 20th century, at least to the extent that the flamboyance or otherwise of outward behaviour tends to mirror the outlook and confidence levels of society as a whole. *Let's Dance* is about party-going rather than dancing as such and this second programme tracks the decline of formal balls, which began to lose their status late in the Edwardian era. But if that helped to make dancing less formally visible and certainly less of a measure of social position, every era has nonetheless used dancing to some extent as an excuse for a get-together, not excluding the raves of the 1990s attended by young people in numbers that some football clubs would kill for. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes at **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong: Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** One in the Jungle **4.00** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **9.15** Kes **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** The Arts Programme **12.05am** Charles Nove **4.00** Diane Louise Jordan

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** Nicky Campbell. Topical phone-in, plus Euronews and health issues **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Alan Green's Sportstalk **8.30** Friday Sport. Charlton Athletic v Swindon Town, from The Valley. Plus, tennis news from the Davis Cup final, and Richard Dunwoody with the weekend's racing **10.00** Paper Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Lynn Parsons **10.00 (FM)** Robin Banks **(AM)** Graham Dene **1.00pm (FM)** Nick Abbot **(MW)** Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00 (FM)** Paul Coyte **(AM)** Cairnin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill Overton and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.15** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Handmaid's Tale **7.30** Music Review **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Westway **8.30** John Peel **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Children in Conversation **9.30** BBC English: Speaking of English **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Assignment **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Focus on Faith **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Major Killers **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: Alternative **3.00** News; News in German (648 only) **3.05** Football Extra **3.15** Journey to the Centre of the Atom **3.30** Science in Action **4.00** News **4.15** The New Europe **4.30** The World Today; News in German (648 only) **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Focus on Faith; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Multitrack: Alternative **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The New Europe **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack Alternative **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Just a Minute **2.00** Newsday **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Science in Action **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** The World Today **4.55** Off the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey with Morning March and Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly. Michael Barry's Classic Recipe is baked meringue apples. Plus, Classic Masterpiece and Kelly's Club Sandwich **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour **2.00** Concerto. Schumann (Violin Concerto in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Mozart (Piano Sonata No 15 in F) **8.00** Evening Concert. Holst (Symphonic Poem Indra); Shankar (Yaman Kalyan); Rimsky-Korsakov (Musical Picture Sadko); Scriabin (Poem of Ecstasy); Holst (Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda); Chavez (Sinfonia India) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r) **4.00** Sally Peterson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Haydn (String Quartet in D minor, Fifths); Debussy (Printemps); Beethoven (Egmont Overture); Handel (Music for the Royal Fireworks); Gershwin, transcr Gibbons (Overture, Girl Crazy); Mozart (Flute and Harp Concerto in C)
9.00 Morning Collection, *with Peter Hobday. Schubert* (Overture Rosamunde); Bach (Toccata and Fugue in D minor); Gluck (Dance of the Blessed Spirits); Liszt (Transcendental Studies Nos 9-12)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. Robert Burns (Scots Wha Hae); Gasparini (Through the Looking Glass); Rubinstein (Barcarolle No 4); Mahler (Ruckert Lieder); Beethoven (Cello Sonata in A); Sibelius (Luonnotar); Mahler (Lieder Eines Fahrenden Gesellen)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Massenet
1.00pm Performance on 3. Chamber Music from Manchester. The Fitzwilliam Quartet performs Haydn's *Seven Last Words on the Cross*
2.00 The BBC Archive. Schubert editions of piano music and string quartets. Stephen Plaistow introduces three early quartets played by the *Melos Quartet of Stuttgart and pays tribute to the* pianist Maria Donska, a Schnabel pupil, who died last year. Includes Schubert (String Quartet in D; Piano Piece in E flat; Sonata in C, Reliquie; Quartet in C; Andantino Varie in B minor). Plus Edith Vogel and James Gibb, pianos, perform Schubert (Quartet in B flat)
4.00 Music Restored. Songs by Stephen Storace, Williams Shield and others are mixed with harp solos by Jean-Baptiste Krumpholz and Jan Ladislav Dussek in performances by Musica Fabule: Sarah Pillow, soprano, and Jan Walters, harp (r)
4.45 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune. Arthur Grumiaux's sublime performance *of Mozart's Violin Sonata in B flat*
7.30 Performance on 3: Prokofiev Festival. See Choice. Live from the Festival Hall, London. London Philharmonic under Alexander Lazarev, Vadim Repin, violin, Simon Callow, narrator. Prokofiev (Dreams; Violin Concerto No 1) **8.05** A Portrait of Prokofiev **8.25** Concert, part two. Prokofiev: Chout (Tale of the Buffoon)
9.35 Designs for Living (Sounding the Century). Presented by Susan Marling. What is the future of domestic architecture? (5/5)
10.00 Hear and Now. Stephen Pratt introduces the first of three reports from the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. Kammarensemblen under Tommy Andersson performs world premieres of works by Karin Rehnqvist and Christer Lindwall. Plus The Cikada Trio, Hilde Torgersen, mezzo, Bjorn Rabben, percussion, and Kenneth Karlsson, piano, perform recent Norwegian work and the first performance of a Festival commission from James Clarke
11.30 Composer of the Week: Strauss (r)
12.30am Documenting the Blues. Paul Oliver discusses field recordings of the black American folk songs (7/8)
1.00 Through the Night, *with Donald Macleod*

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is the theatre producer Thelma Holt (r)
9.45 Feedback. Presented by Chris Dunkley
10.00 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 (FM) News; *Let's Dance!* See Choice (2/4)
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Ruth Wishart
11.30 The Natural History Programme
12.00 News; You and Yours. Mark Whittaker presents reports on consumer and social affairs
12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: War and Peace. Leo Tolstoy's epic novel. It is 1805, and the Austrians — Russia's allies — have been routed by Napoleon, leaving Kutuzov's army, and in particular Prince Andrei Bolkonsky, facing almost certain annihilation at Austerlitz (2/10) (r)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow finds out what will be in the Millennium Dome with the help of Stephen Bayley, project consultant, and members of the public
4.45 Short Story: *Her First Ball*, by Katherine Mansfield, read by Sara Coward (r)
5.00 PM, with Clare English and Chris Lowe **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places. David Stafford presents more ideas for the weekend ahead. Includes the travel writer Frank Barrett in search of the real-life Tom Brown's schooldays at Rugby
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris Serle
8.05 Any Questions? Glenda Jackson, Charles Kennedy and David Willetts join Jonathan Dimbleby in Canterbury, Kent
8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins
9.15 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: The Curious Case of Rumer Godden. Claire Jenkins asks why Rumer Godden's work remains best known by her own generation (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another Time, Another Place. Jessie Kesson's account of an Aberdeenshire farm which takes on foreign workers in 1944 (5/10)
11.00 Week Ending. Satirical review of the week's news, with Sally Grace, Jon Glover, Dave Lamb and Sarah Parkinson
11.25 Fourth Column. More wit and wisdom from the nice people who put the world to rights on a weekly basis
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Hotel for the Holidays, by Jay McInerney, read by William Hope (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

A fond, sad farewell to Flora and the Grove

Matthew Bond

It wasn't quite "stop all the clocks" time, but it was close. Up and down the country yesterday afternoon, front rooms that normally echo to the sound of noisy teatimes fell quiet, the silence broken only by a familiar television theme tune and the sound of sobbing. The last episode of **Byker Grove** (BBC1) had just finished and Flora had actually died. No miracle cure, no last-minute remission — just dead.

With the memory still vivid of the pink balloon rising symbolically into the Tyneside sky, children everywhere will have faced the same challenge: How to cheer up a parent who can't stop crying.

Disgusting handkerchiefs dabbed awkwardly at pink-rimmed eyes. "Come on, Mum — she's not really dead, it's only television." The sobbing subsided, but only as long as it took for the emotional parent to remember Terry — Terry who loved Flora, of course — nobly recovering the bag that contained all her treasured possessions only to discover that . . . it was too late.

Between sniffs, distraught parents wondered how they could spare their children such awful things while, between dabs, sensible children wondered how to tell them they already knew. "There, there, Mum. People get sick, people die: it's natural." "Not on children's television, it isn't."

Certainly it wasn't when I was a legitimate watcher of children's television rather than an occasional viewer. I've had a long, hard think — *Belle and Sebastian*, *The Singing Ringing Tree*, *Follyfoot* — and I can't remember anybody dying. Elderly relatives occasionally "went away", and one or two animals, but nobody actually died — not like Flora, spirited, pretty Flora, who barely a fortnight ago was running away from home. She only had a headache then.

Death, like everything else in *Byker Grove*, happens quickly and it is this pace that allows the long-running series, based loosely on a Newcastle youth centre, to tackle subjects that perhaps only *Grange Hill* has come close to in the past. If Karen (Kimberly Dunbar) just happens accidentally to set fire to her mean employer's hair salon, you know that in the next couple of scenes she *will have owned up* (twice) and been cautioned by the police.

Nevertheless, while good always wins in the end, some of the storylines in the series, tackling such subjects as racism, bullying and under-age sex, have made for slightly uncomfortable viewing. At least for parents.

But Flora's death was beautifully done. Chris Woodger was the epitome of awkward adolescent confusion as Terry and Kerryann Christiansen heart-stoppingly moving as Flora. Her best scenes were probably on Tuesday. By yesterday afternoon, as her brain tumour took its final grip, all Flora could do was lie in bed, meticulously plan her own funeral and tell her mother — gulp — that she loved her. Oh no, not again; has anybody got a hankie, please?

Anybody wondering what I'm doing watching children's television, can't have seen Channel 4's latest offering for grown-ups. "I'm bored rigid," announced Simon, midway through **Pommies**. Me too, Simon, me too.

On paper, *Pommies* must have looked such a good idea, a three-part documentary about expatriate Brits who live in Australia. Should be interesting and funny: perfect. But if it was interesting and funny, what was it doing on at 10pm, especially on a channel that is increasingly aware of the box-office appeal of lightweight documentaries? Being very bad and very boring was what it was doing.

It should have been refreshing to see a documentary-maker abandon the fly-on-the-wall technique, but what Brian Hill replaced it with made you long for a rerun of *Sylvania Waters*. He just didn't have enough material, especially material that was — to embrace the vernacular — on message. Did the making of a commercial for Australian cheese really have much to do with being a Brit in Australia? Despite the fact it was written by one — to wit, Simon — the answer is no. Nevertheless, we saw hours of it.

Hill's disappointingly straightforward approach was to allow his three subjects (two men and one couple) to say their party piece to camera. So Simon, the copywriter, cracked a lot of pre-rehearsed jokes ("the thing I miss most about England? France"); Rowan, the television producer, banged on about failings in Australia's national character; and the Boyles complained a lot. They'd decided to come home, you see.

They had been there for seven years, during which time they appeared to have gone off the beach, the views, the birds, the beer, the barbecues, the steaks, the sausages, the mosquitoes, the jellyfish, the snakes, the ants and the sharks. Me — I'd just gone off *Pommies*.

Thankfully, the edition of **Dispatches** (Channel 4) that preceded it was rather better. It was hardly ground-breaking — there have been doubts about the worth of the ten-year warranty issued by the National House Builders Council since Noah failed to tie-in the timbers of his Ark — but the familiar stories of incompetent builders and inadequate compensation were well marshalled and made decent viewing.

Faced with the complaints, the new chief executive of the NHBC bravely chose to conduct a lengthy damage-limitation exercise on camera. With one or two exceptions, he made a pretty good job of it. But then, as he explained, he wasn't a housebuilder at all. His background was local government. Glutton for punishment, then.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (82393)
7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* *(T) (87751)*
9.00 Good Living (5280206)
9.25 Style Challenge (5292041)
9.50 Kilroy *(T) (2673193)*
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1981995)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (7587645)
11.35 Change That (9516026)
12.00 News (T) (6977577)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (6864995)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (2896374)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (97138)
1.30 Regional News (84017886)
1.40 The Weather Show (59568751)
1.45 Neighbours Phil and Ruth make plans for a weekend away (T) (44020119)
2.05 Quincy Jack Klugman stars (r) (2880664)
2.55 *Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank* (r) (7607157)
3.30 Playdays (8848409) **3.50** Dear Mr Barker (3550848) **4.05** The All New Popeye Show (5086799) **4.10** Casper (3517157) **4.35** Record Breakers (1464409)
5.00 Newsround (T) (5198732)
5.10 Blue Peter *The team investigate global* climate changes (T) (9049732)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (525515)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) (799)
6.30 Regional News (751)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson (T) (2652)
7.30 Top of the Pops Videos, studio performances and a countdown of the latest chart-climbers (T) (935)
8.00 999 Lifesavers *Young* people's attitudes to alcohol concern Michael Buerk in a special programme (T) (6732)
8.30 Only Fools and Horses Love is in the air for the Trotter brothers as the new spark in Rodney's life brings a chance encounter with one of Del's old flames. David Jason stars (r) (T) (5867)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) (4119)
9.30 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates *In the first of a* new series, Hetty gets cosy with a quilt-making circle to gain insider knowledge on who is terrorising a local housing estate with a series of arson attacks. With Patricia Routledge (T) (474577)
10.20 The Wogan Years Dustin Hoffman, Paul McCartney, Gregory Peck, Goldie Hawn and the Three Tenors join the amiable host for a chat (r) (T) (173596) **WALES: 10.20** Picture Wales (700480) **11.55** Snooker: UK Championship (790732) **12.45am** FILM: Mr. Baseball (923542) **2.25** News headlines and weather (4712982) **2.30** BBC News 24
10.55 Snooker: UK Championship Dougie Donnelly presents the concluding frames from today's first best-of-17 semi-final at Preston's Guild Hall (600225)
11.45 Mr Baseball *(1993) Sporting comedy,* starring Tom Selleck as a fading baseball star offered the chance to rejuvenate his career by joining a team in Japan. *Directed by Fred Schepisi* (659577)
1.20am Weather (9290184)
1.25 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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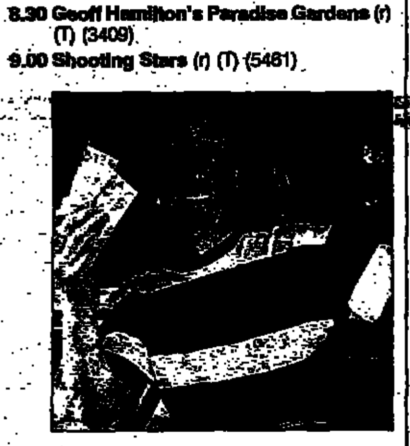
BBC2

6.00am Social Sciences: Global Firms in the Industrialising East (T) (31454) **6.30** Yes, We Never Say No (58751) **7.00** See Hear Breakfast News (T) (6630193)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (4661916) **7.40** The *Perils of Penelope Pitstop (r) (2935157)* **8.05** Smart (r) (T) (2515954) **8.30** William's Wish Wellingtons (9319206) **8.35** Wishing (r) (4206480)
8.45 The Record (9201935)
9.10 Music Makers (2805867) **9.30** Watch (4198664) **9.45** Come Outside **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (49003) **10.30** Look and Read (2027409) **10.50** The Art (2007645) **11.10** Landmarks (r) (T) (1223596) **11.30** English File: George Eliot (6954) **12.00** Scene (11645)
12.30pm Working Lunch (71515) **1.00** The Little Polar Bear (72049026) **1.05** Pingu (73499567)
1.10 *The History Hour* from the Colne Valley (6048848)
2.10 Snooker: UK Championship The first semi-final (23956409)
6.00 The Simpsons Bart turns detective to clear Krusty the Clown of committing a robbery (r) (T) (696003)
6.20 Electric Circus News, views and reviews from the world of entertainment. Presented by Margherita Taylor (616867)
6.40 Snooker: UK Championship More live action from today's first semi-final (304916)
7.30 Earth and Life: Cosmic Bullets How *meteorites have shaped the Earth's* history (T) (577)
8.00 War Walks II: Naseby Richard Holmes visits Naseby, where in 1645 Charles I was defeated by the Parliamentarians in the most crucial conflict of the English Civil War (T) (4374)
8.30 Geoff Hamilton's Paradise Gardens (r) (T) (3409)
9.00 Shooting Stars (r) (T) (5461)



Paul Whitehouse stars (9.30pm)

9.30 The Fast Show Comedy sketches, featuring a remake of *Whisky Galore*, the antics of the Suit You tailors and Unlucky Alf's funfair adventures (51751)
10.00 Have I Got News for You Satirical quiz, with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton joined by guests Warren Mitchell and Hattie Hayridge (12374)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (640645)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (870157)
11.15 The A Force Roy Diamond and guest Mr Motivator introduce the best in black entertainment (310916)
1.00am VR 5 *Sydney journeys back in time to* an East German railway station, where she uncovers some startling facts (T) (6843891)
1.49 Quantum Leap (r) (5534894)
2.30 Weather (6085523)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4752596)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep *(T) (5278461)*
9.55 Regional News and weather (6795190)
10.00 The Time, the Place (76157)
10.30 This Morning (48071935)
12.20pm Regional News (6966461)
12.30 News (T) and weather (2922799)
12.55 WALES: The Fashion Police (T) (2990190)
12.55 Moneyspinners (T) (2990190)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (90648913)
1.50 Murder, She Wrote (5349916)
2.50 WALES: The Pulse (T) (8331751)
2.50 Yan Can Cook (8331751)
3.20 News (T) (8650409)
3.25 Regional News (T) (8642480)
3.30 Jays' World (3574428) **3.40** Titch (3554664) **3.55** Bernard's Watch (8845312) **4.15** The Best of Hey Arnold! (T) (6662026) **4.40** Fun House (T) (9510409)
5.10 A Country Practice (9501683)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) and weather (768393)
6.00 Home and Away *(r)* (T) (502190)
6.25 Weather (884577)
6.30 WALES: Wales Tonight (119)
6.30 The West Tonight (119)
7.00 Bruce's Price Is Right (T) (5480)
7.30 Coronation Street Des decides it's time for Les to back off (T) (913)

Ackland faces the music (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill When a good deed misfires badly, Ackland (Trudie Goodwin) finds herself on the wrong end of an investigation (T) (1428)
8.30 Blind Men Phil organises a housewarming party (T) (7585)
9.00 Most Wanted A new series in which Dermot Murnaghan and Penny Smith appeal for public help in tracking down Britain's most wanted criminals (T) (9157)
10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (49428)
10.30 WALES: HTV News (261515)
10.30 The West Tonight Update *(261515)*
10.40 Columbo: Agenda for Murder With Peter Falk (31104157)
12.25am Tales from the Crypt (5776271)
12.50 The Paul Ross Show (3247558)
2.20 Pair of Aces (1990) With Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson. A Texas Ranger's investigation into a series of murders involving high-school girls is heading nowhere until help comes from a conman's knowledge of Texas low life. Directed by Aaron Lipstadt (152829)
4.05 Movie Club (r) (41227320)
4.30 Breakaways (11903726)
4.40 Coach: Jailbirds *(38348436)*
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (90707)
5.30 News (50504)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice *(2990190)*
2.50-3.20 Our House (8331751)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9501683)
5.59-6.00 Air Watch (266886)
6.25-7.00 Central News (884577)
10.40 Central Weekend Live (6158886)
12.10am Campus Cops (1615691)
12.40 The Paul Ross Show (3159349)
2.10 The LADS (3792829)
2.40 Box Office America (2053813)
3.05 Baywatch (5457455)
3.50 Helter Skelter (7190558)
4.40 Central Jobfinder '97 (2092271)
5.20 Asian Eye (9870504)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations. The Rev Sam Philpott describes the history of St Peter's Church, Plymouth (6966461)
12.55 Home and Away (2990190)
1.25 Wild About Devon. The Rev Steve Wild is lost in the wilds of Dartmoor (79093022)
1.55 Westcountry Update (97435848)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (2686848)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9501683)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (43732)
12.25am Weekly World News (5776271)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 Shortland Street (2990190)
1.50 Perfectly Pets (97436577)
2.20-3.20 Highway to Heaven (1677732)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away *(9501683)*
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (43732)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (252867)
10.45 Film: Jagged Edge *(52599225)*
5.00am Freescreen (90707)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6985596)
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? *(2990190)*
1.50 Backstage (97436577)
2.20-3.20 Highway to Heaven (1677732)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street *(9501683)*
6.23 Anglia Weather (429428)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (884577)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (677799)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (252867)
10.45 Film: Jagged Edge (52599225)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (70461) **9.00 Yogolion** (277848) **11.30 Sophie's Meat Course** (1022) ***12.00 Sesame Street*** *(39041)* **12.30pm Ricki Lake** (66683) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (83319062) **1.15 Slot Syniadau Sali** (88369567) **1.30 Gardens Without Borders** (84091848) **1.45 Film: The Cruel Sea** (24029119) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (732) **4.30 Deals on Wheels** (916) **5.00 5 Pump** (3886) **5.30 Countdown** (596) **6.00 Newyddion** (975022) **6.10 Heno** (342916) ***7.00 Pobol y Cwm*** (630867) **7.25 Y Clwb Rygbi** (989916) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (2770) **8.30 Newyddion** (8577) **9.00 Pawb a'i Farn** (7799) **10.00 Brookside** (179770) **10.35 Friends** (771041) **11.05 Rory Bremner — Who Else?** (194409) **11.45 Crapston Villas** (198480) **12.00 TFI Friday** (9353726) **1.05am Film: Bedazzled** (455726) **3.00 Film: Life Begins at Forty** (4430523)

CHANNEL 4

5.40am Sesame Street (75003) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (70461)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits (5273916) **9.25** Schools at Work (1654409) **9.30** Eureka! (T) (4195577) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (T) *(7345041)* ***10.02*** *Lost Animals (4280003)* **10.10** TVM (T) (5860747) **10.25** Caraidean (4315652) **10.40** Top! (2036157) **11.00** Scotscapes (3015954) ***11.15*** *Stage One (T) (3005577)*
11.30 Sophie's Meat Course: Offal (3/6) (r) (T) (1022) **12.00** Sesame Street (39041) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (69409) **1.30** Gardens without Borders (84091848) **1.45** A Child's Dream (59550732)
1.50 Third Time Lucky (1949) starring Dermot Walsh and Glynis Johns. A professional gambler finds love with the young woman who brought him luck. Directed by Gordon Parry (82744596)
3.30 *Garden Doctors* *(r) (T) (1/6) (225)* **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (732) **4.30** Countdown (T) (1458848) **4.55** Ricki Lake: Are Some Women Addicted to Having Babies (T) *(9298003)* ***5.30*** *Pet Rescue (T) (596)*
6.00 TFI Friday The guests include Ricki Lake and the Lightning Seeds (41374)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (333335)
7.55 The Political Slot An MP offers an opinion (314577)
8.00 The Best of Collectors' Lot (2/6) Highlights of the series about collectors and their valuable possessions. Presented by Sue Cook, Russell Labey and Jethro Marles (T) (2770)
8.30 Brookside Can Eleanor face up to her past (T) (8577)

Matt Le Blanc finds love (9.00pm)

9.00 Friends: The One With the Screamer Joey's play receives terrible reviews but his romance with his co-star is blossoming (T) (987954)
9.35 Ellen Comedy starring Ellen DeGeneres. Joe is fired by the new manager of the bookstore (T) (718225)
10.00 Frasier: Daphne Hates Sherry Daphne decides to stay at Niles's apartment to avoid Sherry (T) (30770)
10.30 Rory Bremner — Who Else? Political *satire (841645)*
11.10 Crapston Villas Animated life in suburbia (T) (144409)
11.25 TFI Friday (r) (853225)
12.30am Bedazzled (1967) starring Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. A comedy in which the Devil grants a man with a crush on a waitress seven wishes. Directed by Stanley Donen (572287)
2.25 Life Begins at 40 (1935, b/w) starring Will Rogers as a newspaper editor *campaigning to prove the innocence of a man accused of robbing a bank.* Directed by George Marshall (T) (9559875)
3.50 The Hunger Artist (r) (7018900) **4.40** Flava (r) (26181097) **5.10** Desire (1/5) (r) (T) (5209691)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt decoder** will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (2227577)
7.30 Milkshake (4980119) **7.35** Kablam! (6374770) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (9140995)
8.30 WideWorld Documentary series on the Victorian era (1/10) (2481356)
9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine *(2262022)* **10.00** Exclusive (r) *(8369374)* **10.30** Was it Good for You? (r) (4469680)
11.00 Leeza Chat show (7924428) **11.50** Double Espresso (94108428) **12.00** The *Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6990472)* **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (8104461)
1.00 5 News Update (74098747) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3993935) **2.00** 5's Company (8961003)
3.30 Let's Do it Again (1975) starring and directed by Sidney Poitier, with Bill Cosby. A comedy sequel to *Uptown Saturday Night* (2221393)
5.30 Whittle Audience participation game show (T) (3358683)
6.00 100 *Per Cent* *Quiz game without a host* (3355596)
6.30 Family Affairs Duncan and Tim are mistaken for a couple at a gay night (T) (3346848)
7.00 Name That Tune (5937022)
7.30 Exclusive Sarah Cox talks to Richard E. Grant (3335732)
8.00 Jenny Eclair Squats (5946770)
8.30 5 News (T) (5932577)
9.00 Broken Badges *(1990) starring* Miguel Ferrer. A drama about an unconventional policeman investigating the murder of a respected and wealthy couple *(79053770)*
10.50 La Femme Nikita Adventures of a female special agent (4584409)
11.45 Bedroom Eyes (1984) starring Kenneth Gilman. A drama about a man who becomes the prime suspect in a murder case because of his obsession with a woman he has never met. Directed by William Fruet (9255799)

Sandra Milo stars (1.25am)

1.25 am 8½ (1963, b/w) Marcello Mastroianni and Claudia Cardinale star in this classic tale about a film director trying to get a new project off the ground. Directed by Federico Fellini (82405392)
3.50 Flying Down to Rio (1933, b/w). A musical featuring the first pairing of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Thornton Freeland directs (10723726)
5.20 The Road *(57248523)*
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2250287)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (891799) **9.00** Hotel (52864) **10.00** Another World (37770) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (24208) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (11634) **1.00pm** Geraldo (83374) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (80374) **3.00** Jenny Jones (23428) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (89585) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (4157) **6.00** Showbiz Weekly (7119) **6.30** Married...with Children (1799) **7.00** The Simpsons (6896) **7.30** Real TV (3193) **8.00** Highlander: The Series (55515) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (35751) **10.00** Stand and Deliver (69206) **10.30** Stand and Deliver (76954) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (45799) **12.00** Late Show (34185) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (94610) **2.00** Long Play (5944349)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am The President's Analyst (1967) (26832954) **7.45 Breaking Away** (1979) (51077022) **9.30 Rudy** (1993) (18409) **11.30 The Secret of Nimh** (1982) (74577) **1.00pm Operation Dumbo Drop** (1995) (95206) **3.00 Breaking Away** (1979) (11577) **5.00 Kansas** (1988) (74139) **7.00 Operation Dumbo Drop** (1995) (34683) **9.00 Stolen Hearts** (1996) (94916) **11.00 Delta of Venus** (1994) (665916) **12.50am The Unholy** (1988) (551349) **2.35 Only When I Laugh** (1981) (222287) **4.35 The Secret of Nimh** (1982) (5089455)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am The Leopard Man (1943) (5992022) ***7.10 The Curse of the Cat People*** (1944) (5797139) **8.20 Transformers: The Movie** (1986) (27841206) **10.00 Trail Street** (1947) (97577) **12.00 Four Jills in a Jeep** (1944) (537428) **1.40pm Mademoiselle Fifi** (1944) (8237867) **2.50 The Curse of the Cat People** (1944) (9157886) **4.00 Time Warrior: Journey to the Magic Cavern** (1995) (7003) **6.00 Seduction in a Small Town** (1996) (60683) **8.00 Down, Out and Dangerous** (1995) (42041) **10.05 Broken Arrow** (1996) (658954) **12.00 Dream Man** (1994) (744962) **1.35am Behind Closed Doors** (1994) (613349) **3.15 The Detective** (1968) (23833184)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Rawhide (1951) (7791409) **6.00 Tap** (1989) (2265848) **8.00 Witness** (1985) (2280393) **10.00 Alien** (1979) (8161664) **11.55 Aliens: The Director's Cut** (1986) (35236208) **2.30am Blood and Sand** (1941) (4692788) **4.30 Close**

TNT

8.00pm WCW Nitro (89019577) **9.00 Captain Nemo and the Underwater City** (1970) (89012664) **11.00 Get Carter** (1971) (84027312) **1.00am Shaft** (1971) (84912436) **3.00 Captain Nemo and the Underwater City** (1970) (31469455)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (74225) **7.30** Wrestling (93916) **8.30** Sports Centre (94515) **9.00** Racing News (35887) **9.30** Aerobics (21157) **10.00** Rebel Sports (59916) **11.00** Pool (82480) **12.00** Aerobics (65003) **12.30pm** Golf: Australian Open (67003) **2.30** Macau Grand Prix (39428) **3.30** Ringside (24481) **4.30** The Rugby Club (63208) **6.00** Sports Centre (28044) **7.00** Trans World Sport (77751) **8.00** NBA: Miami v Los Angeles (97515) **10.00** Sports Centre (76022) **11.00** Hold the Back Page (50645) **12.00** Sports Centre (72349) **1.00am** Wrestling (12897) **3.00** NHL: Powerweek (70323) **4.00** Hold the Back Page (67897) **5.00** Sports Centre (66146)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (3668585) **7.30** Sports Centre (4113670) **8.00** Racing News (3656119) **8.30** Tight Lines (9940041) **9.30** Rugby Club (4022683) **11.00** Spanish Primera Liga (6956409) **1.00pm** Davis Cup Final: Sweden v U.S.A.—Live (9524167) **6.00** Powerboats (8445770) **6.30** World Sport Special (9436022) **7.00** Charlton Athletic v Swindon Town—Live (2858136) **10.00** Cricket (7195577) **12.00** Cricket: Australia v New Zealand—Live (8343610) **2.00am** Second Innings (1136243) **2.30** Cricket—Live (5108962)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Cricket (57956312) **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (84017935) **3.30** Football League Review (55619954) **4.00** Best and Worst (55698461) **4.30** World Sport Special (55694645) **5.00** Trans World Sport (30338138) **6.00** Extreme Sport (55615139) **6.30** High 5 (55699190) **7.00** NHL: Powerweek (89035515) **8.00** Golf: Australian Open (89015751) **10.00** Wrestling: Raw (84909732) **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Sailing (89428) **8.00** Skiing (25119) **9.00** In-Line Skating (70935) **9.30** Windsurfing (16225) **10.00** UEFA Cup (98461) **12.00** Skiing (26009) **1.00pm** Windsurfing (68684) **1.30** Skysurfing (19312) **2.00** Luge (4312) **2.30** Diving (9732) **3.00** X-Games (56770) **4.00** UEFA Cup (42577) **5.00** Nordic Combined Skiing (4799) ***6.00*** Skiing (95732) ***7.00*** X-Games (79119) **8.00** Offroad Magazine (88867) **9.00** Indoor Windsurfing — Live (81954) **11.00** Skysurfing (43206) **11.30** X-Games (66041) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Wurzel Gummidge (8395193) **7.35** Neighbours (8938888) **8.00** Crossroads (3703374) **8.25** EastEnders (1190751) **9.00** The Bill (8640138) **9.30** Howards' Way (9870596) **10.00** Bless This House (6985954) **10.30** The Sullivans (8839022) **11.00** Boon (4849428) **12.00** Crossroads (14411954) **12.25** Neighbours (14414041) **12.55** EastEnders (1768751) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (9047886) **2.10** Keeping Up Appearances (7593138) **2.50** Last of the Summer Wine (2242461) **3.30** The Bill (7553374) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (78518119) **5.05** EastEnders (8332848) **5.40** Full House (7963770) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (8897374) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (4244867) **7.35** Are You Being Served? (4062026) **8.20** Keeping Up Appearances (1435138) ***9.00*** *The Bill* (1340003) **9.30** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (25521119) **10.35** Comic Strip Presents (9104206) **11.10** Best of Old Grey Whistle Test (5718732) **12.15am** Sight and Sound in Concert (9789691) **1.00** Paul Merton (6831558) **1.30** Miami Vice (3376388) **2.20** Shopping (87479252)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (8845790) **7.00** Coronation St (8998577) **7.30** Families (6900312) **8.00** Blind Date (8815954) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3806119) **10.00** The Professionals (8906596) **11.00** Hart to Hart (8986732) **12.00** Coronation St (7816896) **12.30pm** Families (2435157) **1.00** Blind Date (2423312) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3093312) **3.00** Donahue (8282848) **4.00** The Professionals (8274683) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (1172041) **6.00** Families (2216683) **6.30** Coronation St (2207935) **7.00** Blind Date (7878732) **8.00** Hart to Hart (7887480) **9.00** Coronation St (8270867) **9.30** Hale and Pace (2415393) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (7977003) **11.00** Close

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (30324935) **5.30** Hey Dad!! (55823157) **6.00** Blockbusters (55613770) **6.30** A Country Practice (55804022) **7.00** My Two Wives (30344799) **7.30** Men of the World (55800206) **8.00** Blue Heelers (89026867) **9.00** Lovejoy (89008003) **10.00** The Good Sex Guide (86044770) **10.30** *Collins and Maconie's Movie Club* (86020190) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84074312) **12.00** Fast Forward (15480368) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (34214829) **1.00** Hadleigh (42795097) **2.00** Close

Michael Caine admires the view in *Get Carter* (TNT, 11.00pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus **6.30** Under the Umbrella Tree **7.00** Aladdin: The Series **7.30** Quack Pack **8.00** Dinosaurs **8.30** Bonkers **9.00** Gummi Bears **9.30** Groundling Marsh **9.55** Small Stories **10.00** Sesame St **11.00** Winnie the Pooh **11.15** Rosie and Jim **11.35** Sing Me a Story **12.00** Tots TV **12.20pm** Disney Shorts **12.25** Big Garage **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame St **2.00** Madisons Adventures — Growing Up Wild **2.30** Gummi Bears **3.00** Tale Spin **3.30** Goof Troop **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa **4.30** Recess **5.00** Brand Spanking New Doug **5.30** Pepper Ann **6.00** Nightmare Ned **6.30** Smart Guy **7.00** Wayne Manifesto **7.30** FILM: Toothless **9.00** Second Noah **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Dotty and His Friends **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** The Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Bots Master **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Earthworm Jim **10.00** Gravedale High **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Gravedale High **12.30pm** Bots Master **1.00** Batman **1.30** Eek **2.00** Spirou **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Art Attack **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh!! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CSBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Paddington Bear etc **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CSBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** No Naked Flames **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** Blast **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm *Cross Wits* ***5.30*** *Say the Word* **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** The $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Move on Up **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Whittle **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** Big Brother Jake **3.00** Boogies Diner **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Jeux Sans Frontiers **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (6070461) **9.00** Tour of Duty (6080225) **10.00** The Red Shoe Diaries (9476886) **10.45** FILM: Dark Breed (1995) (4985426) **12.45am** Tour of Duty (3084765) **1.45** The Red Shoe Diaries (4367702) **2.30** FILM: An Eye for an Eye (1981) (4538252) **4.30** The Head (6734691) ***5.00*** *The A-Team* (6837097)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (8374) **7.30** *Roseanne (3799)* **8.00** *Ellen (7022)* **8.30** Cybill (6157) **9.00** Cheers (922206) **9.25** Doppelganger (619480) **9.30** Taxi (76521) **10.00** Monty Python's Flying Circus (84374) **10.30** The Kenny Everett Show (73022) **11.00** Paramount Presents (855577) **11.25** Doppelganger (848848) **11.30** Ellen (21645) **12.00** Roseanne (48707) **12.30am** Nightstand (25368) **1.00** Soap (81184) **1.30** Taxi (97233) **2.00** *Paramount Presents* (26320) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (45455) **3.00** Cybill (61320) **3.30** The Kenny Everett Show (36707) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (4159751) **9.00** FILM: Little Devils — The Birth (1993) (4169138) **11.00** Friday the 13th (2462751) **12.00** Sightings (6142894) ***1.00am*** The Twilight Zone (6134504) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (8526784) **2.00** Dark Shadows (1525436) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (1537271) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7249875)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (8831480) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (9678138) **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot (6993596) **10.30** New Yankee Workshop (8637684) **11.00** Rex Hunt Specials (1368409) **11.30** Hometime (1369138) **12.00** Wheel Nuts (8628916) **12.30pm** This Old House (9672954) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (4841896) **1.30** Doing it Up (9671225) **2.00** The Furniture Guys (6818393) **2.30** Room for Improvement (7589799) **3.00** Two's Country (6837428) **3.30** Home Again (7551916) **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (7583751) **4.30** Roadshow (8372577) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (7583515) **6.00** Untamed Amazonia (8657645) **7.00** Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe (6829409) **7.30** Disaster (7580684) **8.00** Ultimate Guide (6083935) **9.00** Forensic Detectives (6003799) **10.00** Medical Detectives (8829645) **10.30** Medical Detectives (8638393) **11.00** Weapons of War (4828935) **12.00** Fightline (3343185) **12.30am** Roadshow (5016639) **1.00** Disaster (6759900) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (2447252) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Wild Italy: Refuge of the Wolf (7879954) **7.30** *Mystery of the Crop Circle* (5633732) **8.00** Giant Panda: The Last Refuge (3249480) **9.00** The Explorers. A Century of Discovery (3236916) **10.00** Medicine: Through Their Eyes (3239003) **11.00** The Sound of Young Mountains (4862935) **12.00** Wild Italy: Refuge of the Wolf (3934981) **12.30am** Mystery of the Crop Circles (7476982) **1.00** Close

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm Travel Live **1.00** A-z Med **1.30** Across the Line **2.00** Cities of the World **2.30** *Gatherings and Celebrations* **3.00** Portrait of Ireland **3.30** Railway Adventures Across Europe **4.00** Around Britain **4.30** Greg's World **5.00** Wet and Wild **5.30** Reel World **6.00** On the Road to the Islands **6.30** On the Horizon **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** No Truckin' Holiday **8.30** Sports Safaris **9.00** Great Splendours of the World **10.00** Gatherings and Celebrations **10.30** Bruce's American Postcards **11.00** Travel Live **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm War in the East: The Road to Stalingrad: Part Two (7108041) ***5.00*** *History Encore* (8670799) **7.00** Biography: Lucrezia Borgia (2001799) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** Sophie's Meat Course **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** High Days and Other Days **2.00** Hudson and Halls **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** French Lunch **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** Ideal Home Cooks **4.30** Planet Nosh **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am *Tiny Living* ***9.00*** *I Dream of Jeannie* **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.50** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **12.20pm** Why Me? **1.00** Tempest **1.50** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.30** Cheap Chic **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Lucky Ladders **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Hearts Afire **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00** Halifax fp **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Aap Ki Adalat **8.00** ZEE Business News and Music **8.30** Raahat **9.00** Dasht **10.00** Inteqaam **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratein **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00** Hindi FILM: Jurmana **3.30** Ek Nazar **4.00** Amar Kathayen **4.30** Aur Ek Minute **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Kachchi Dhoop **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** ZEE Hit Parade **7.30** Mast Mast Hai Zindagi **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Parampara **9.00** Hit Star Season FILM: Vijeta **11.30** Sizzlers **12.00** Close

MTV

The 24 hour music channel

VH-1

The video hits channel

هكذا من الاهل

RACING 47
Forster in search of a lift from Dublin Flyer

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 1997

TENNIS 46
Swedes preparing Davis Cup ambush for Sampras

Van Gaal offers consolation

Newcastle gain support from unlikely source

By David Maddock

EVEN in the post-match press conference, Newcastle United's venture into the Nou Camp stadium could not shake off the surreal qualities that had surrounded their European Cup Champions' League meeting with Barcelona.

When Louis van Gaal, the coach of the Spanish club, spoke, he did so in the language of the visiting team, waiting for it to be translated for the benefit of the local media with an air of almost complete indifference.

Van Gaal has some Spanish, but his mistrust of journalists in Barcelona is such that he preferred to converse with them, grudgingly, in English. Only when the Spanish press had departed did he visibly relax and open up to the extent that he almost broke into a smile. His theme? Football in England.

The former coach of Ajax is something of an aficionado of the FA Carling Premiership. His affection for the English game is apparently stronger than that for the sport in the country where he now plies his trade. The great tactician and organiser admires, naturally enough, the discipline of English players.

Surprisingly, he also has time for the standard of the game in Britain. When many would mock Newcastle's desperately flat performance in Barcelona, Van Gaal placed an emphasis on the positive.

In particular, he suggested that there is no need for pessimism about the future of the game in England, despite Newcastle's early exit from the Champions' League. "I like Newcastle and I like the way they play," he said. "But when you lose your two strikers you are almost finished.

"Alan Shearer is one of the best strikers around and any team without him and their second striker would find it impossible. But I think in Shearer, English football has a symbol that raises hope. Not only does he prove there is great technique in your game, but he will remain in England.

"I wanted to sign him when I was coach at Ajax, but I know it would be very difficult for me to sign him now. He earns a million dollars a year in England and if someone offers him 1½ million dollars, it would not matter to him.

Gross profit 49

English football has the money to keep all its best players now and bring in the best overseas players. In a very short time that will become significant."

Van Gaal's assessment was accurate in the sense that Newcastle would certainly have proved a greater threat had they been able to draw on their first-choice forwards. However, their performance in the Nou Camp illustrated a constant British failing of recent seasons.

Everyone expected John Barnes to play up front in Barcelona, including, it seems, the Newcastle players. Kenny Dalglish decided to employ him in midfield, but even his team did not know that until the eve of the game. Thus Newcastle went into an important match not having once tried out a new formation.

Whereas Barcelona have worked on their system since July, honing every aspect of the new demands of Van Gaal, Newcastle go into matches with little preparation in training for whichever system they may adopt and play mostly off the cuff, relying on individual skills.

It may work in the Premiership, but against the continental elite it frequently does not. Of England's representatives in Europe, only Manchester United have a defined system that the players work on constantly in training, allowing them to feel comfortable with their tactics in matches.

This lack of preparation is a throw-back to the past when physically strong English teams felt that they could simply turn up and hold an advantage. Now they are matched in every department by European rivals who are better prepared tactically.

It is something that Dalglish must quickly address, but for the present he has more pressing problems. Once again the paucity of his squad was exposed and with it the now increasingly pertinent question of why money has not been made available to address the situation?

In his post-match analysis, the Newcastle manager clearly indicated that he needs to strengthen his squad, and the feeling persists that he is extremely frustrated at the lack of funds made available to do so, despite assurances when he took over at St James' Park that money was available.

There was at least one brighter note for the immediate future in the second-half performance of Aaron Hughes, the 18-year-old central defender. Hughes made an impressive appearance as a second-half substitute against Barcelona and his performance drew praise from Bryan Hamilton, the former Northern Ireland manager.

"He's going to be a really good player, no doubt about it. He's a super kid, who wants to learn, and at 6ft he's already a great size for a centre half," Hamilton said. "He can play the ball out of defence well and is very level-headed and sensible — a great pro."

Van Gaal: admiring

REBECCA NADEN

Yawning glory: Paul Grayson, the Northampton fly half, found the England training session yesterday somewhat less than gripping. There will be no rest, though, for Nick Greenstock, who will replace Phil de Glanville for the match at Twickenham on Saturday. Report, page 48

TV dispute may delay Lewis bout

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

LENNOX LEWIS'S bout with Evander Holyfield for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world could be delayed indefinitely because of a wrangle between HBO and Showtime, two leading American cable television companies. Both are claiming the right to show the bout. It appears the matter can only be resolved by Holyfield taking a hand.

According to Showtime, its contract with Don King, Holyfield's promoter, allows it to demand 30 days' notice to negotiate for the contest and match a bid by any other television company. However, HBO is adamant that Lewis is contracted to appear exclusively on its channels.

Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, the company promoting Lewis, said last night: "I've just spoken to HBO and they have put Showtime on notice that the fight can only be shown on TVKO [HBO's pay-per-view arm].

"Everything was looking good, but then we ran into trouble when Don King went to Showtime to ask them to waive their rights. They refused. And HBO naturally cannot be expected to budge either as they have Lennox under exclusive contract.

"It is now up to Holyfield and Jim Thomas [Holyfield's lawyer] to step in. King may be tied to Showtime, but Holyfield isn't. If Holyfield wants to fight Lennox, as we all think he does, he must tell King that his contract with Showtime has nothing to do with him.

"Even Seth Abraham [the president of Time-Warner Sport, the parent company of HBO] is not too optimistic. He said if Holyfield does not act, the fight was unlikely to be made."

Eliades said one solution would be to give the promotion to Panix, with King acting as a partner.

Thomas has always said that Holyfield wants to fight Lewis because he wants to retire as undisputed champion and Lewis is the only heavyweight of his era he has not met.

While confirming King has a *right to stage Holyfield's* contests, Thomas also believes that if King, for any reason, cannot act in the best interests of Holyfield, the contract with the promoter could not prevent Holyfield from signing with another company.

Thus Eliades's plan for Panix to take over the promotion is a possibility Holyfield could fall back on.

England Test trial put in cold storage for two years

By Our Sports Staff

A CONGESTED 1998 cricket fixture list means that there is no room for the match between England A and The Rest, which has opened the new season for the past two years and given the selectors an early opportunity to assess emerging talent.

In the game at Edgbaston last season, Ben Hollioake made such a good impression that he won a place in the Texaco Trophy series and went on to a full Test debut at Trent Bridge.

"It's not a policy decision to drop the fixture, it's more of a scheduling problem," Tim Lamb, chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, said yesterday.

"We are starting the season a week earlier than normal because we want to give players a day off between a Test match and a possible vital one-day game. If you look at *the fixtures, there is a day off* between the end of the second Test at Lord's and the NatWest Trophy first round; the England players deserve a break.

"We did not think we could play the England A game even earlier because the senior England squad only returns from the West Indies on April 10. We are not ruling the England A game out forever, although I would have thought it unlikely to take place in 1999 because of the World Cup."

Glamorgan, who claimed their first county championship since 1969 by beating Somerset at Taunton in September, begin their defence of the title against Gloucestershire — one of the pace-setters last season — at Bristol on April 17 before returning to Cardiff to entertain Kent, who finished runners-up.

Sussex, the tailenders last season, will hope for better things under their new captain, Chris Adams, whose former county, Derbyshire, visit Horsham on May 21.

A varied international programme begins with the three-match Texaco Trophy series against South Africa before the five-Test programme against the same opponents starts at Edgbaston on June 4.

Sri Lanka, holders of the World Cup, have been awarded another one-off Test but this will be at the Oval, starting on August 27, rather than at Lord's as in the past.

Surrey, emphatic winners against Kent in the Benson and Hedges Cup final last season, begin the competition on April 28 against Hampshire while Essex, the NatWest Trophy winners, travel to Cheshire for their first-round tie on June 24.

Referees to send themselves off

David Maddock reports on a strike threat by Spain's much-criticised men in black

It is becoming common within football for players to call a strike as a protest about pay and conditions, but referees? Never. In Spain, however, the men in black are preparing to blow the whistle on this weekend's programme.

The men everyone in football loves to hate are striking, not about their fee of £500 a match, but because they have taken to heart the constant criticism that they naturally arouse.

It all began with an official complaint by Miguel Ros, the president of Valencia, who sent videos to the Spanish Football Federation in support of claims that referees are biased against his team.

It has grown out of all proportion, because in Spain there are rather exaggerated regional differences, particularly between Basques, Catalans and Madrilenos, and this has led to claims of regional bias. There is intense suspicion every time a northern referee officiates for a southern team — and vice versa.

It finally came to a head last Saturday when Barcelona were venomous in their criticism of Alfonso Perez Burrull, who officiated in their match with Ovideo. They had a point. Fernando Couto was blatantly pushed to the ground by an Ovideo forward, and when he picked the ball up for the anticipated free kick he was dismissed for deliberate handball.

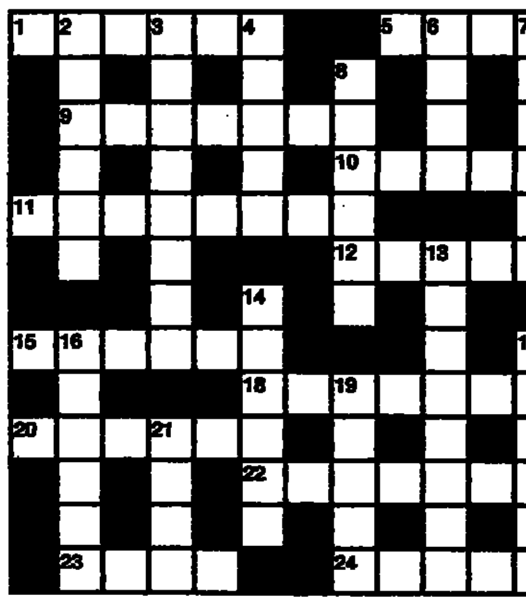
All hell broke loose, but now the referees are calling foul. They have refused to officiate for this weekend's programme and have even called Victoriano Arminio, the president of the referees' association, a traitor because he has attempted to broker a solution. Angel Villar, the president of the Spanish Football Federation, has returned to Madrid early from a Uefa meeting in Brussels in an attempt to avoid the calamity of a lost programme, which would cost more than £5 million in lost revenue.

TVE, the state broadcasting company, which covers the Spanish league, is desperate for a solution and it appears it will get its way. Even if the referees stay true to form and refuse to change their minds, the matches will go ahead with amateurs from regional leagues taking their place.

Predictably, the critical coaches who aroused the referees' passion in the first place have not been sympathetic. Many have said that the amateurs will do a better job, and Louis van Gaal, the Barcelona coach, went one step further.

He has been an outspoken critic of referees and his comments yesterday raised the spectre of another strike. "The referees have not considered what they have been saying about the players, and especially the coaches," he said. "Maybe we can go on strike in protest."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1263

ACROSS
1 Rock layers (6)
5 Frame of mind (4)
9 Displaced person (7)
10 Accomplish, reach (6)
11 *Twelve Labour* man (8)
12 *Plough and the Stars* playwright (6)
15 Jail officer (6)
18 Hamlet's uncle: "I, —" (*Graves*) (8)
20 Mark of infamy (6)
22 Unpalatable choice (7)
23 Disembowels; courage (4)
24 Printed card, receipt (6)

DOWN
2 At which one aims (6)
3 Touched: unnatural (8)
4 Heavenly messenger (5)
6 Supplant (4)
7 Contrive, work out (6)
8 Cause; sanity (6)
13 Conventional (painter); good at learning (child) (8)
14 Covered shopping passage (6)
16 On stage; temporary (office, rank) (6)
17 Assistant clergyman (6)
19 Assign (shares) (5)
21 Attack (2,2); an animal (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1262
ACROSS: 1 Celibate 5 Smug 8 Bismarck 9 Area 11 Along 12 Lexicon 13 Exhort 15 Access 18 Plateau 19 Rocky 21 Wake 22 In camera 23 Rink 24 Knee-jerk
DOWN: 1 Cabbage 2 Lasso 3 Bear-garden 4 Tackle 6 Miracle 7 Grain 10 Exacerbate 14 Hearken 16 Skylark 17 Turn in 18 Power 20 Crewe

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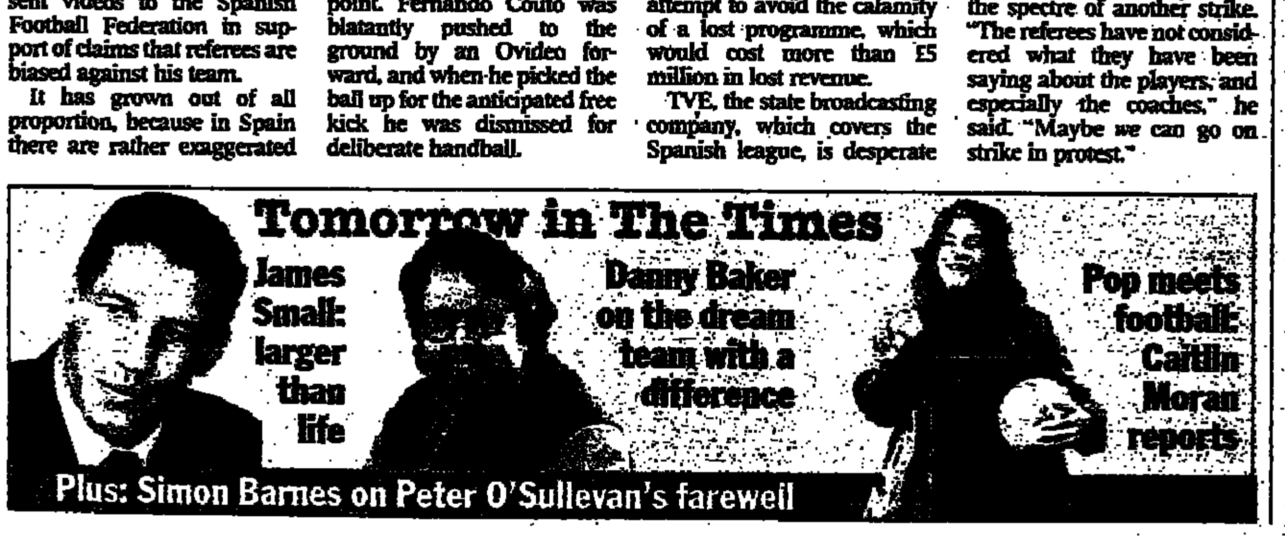
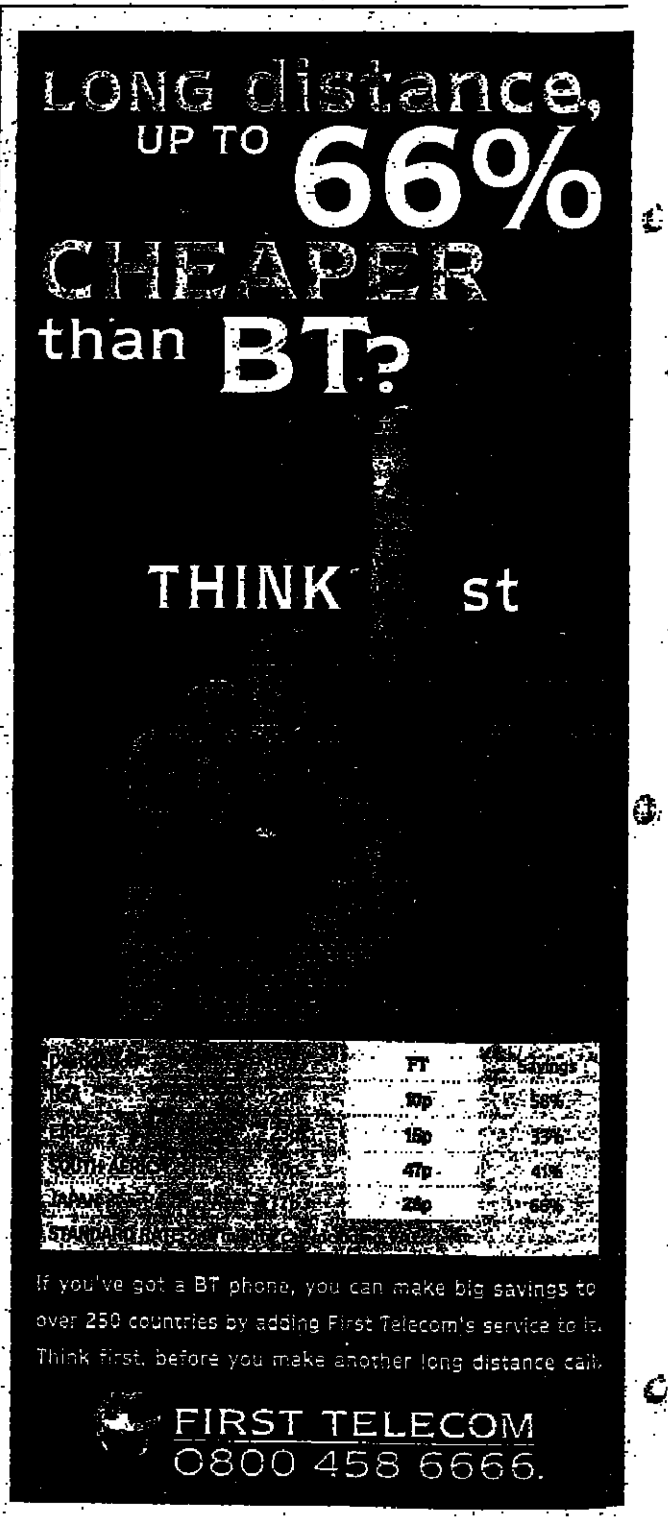


Tomorrow in The Times
James Small: larger than life
Danny Baker on the dream team with a difference
Pop meets football: Caitlin Moran reports
Plus: Simon Barnes on Peter O'Sullevan's farewell



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